

BAY AREA REPORTER

TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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Celebrating Gay Liberation, 1983 (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Parade Week Finale

by Allen White

THURSDAY

Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week is in full swing in San Francisco.

Tonight is one of the most important entertainment events of the year for the Gay community at Davies Hall. Co-chaired by Jane Fonda, "An Evening with Debbie Reynolds and Friends", the goal is to raise tens of thousands of dollars for AIDS. This is the first fundraiser for the National AIDS/KS Foundation. Tickets in all seating areas are still available for \$25 at the Davies Symphony Hall box office. The show starts at 7:00. Sylvester has been added to the list of performers which also includes Phyllis Diller, Eartha Kitt, Morgana King and Robert Guillaume.

FRIDAY

Golden Gate Performing Arts presents the Fifth Annual Gay Musical Celebration at the Warfield Theatre Friday night. It features the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus. The concert is presented at 7 and 10 p.m.

Tickets are also on sale for the Mr. Drummer contest at Trocadero Transfer.

The Starlight Room starts its 6th year anniversary party at 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

Celebrating five years of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band is the "Fives" event at California Hall on Saturday night. The cabaret evening features 15 acts of entertainment including the San Francisco Tap Troupe, the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale, Empress Connie, the Hayward Raw Raes and the tickets are

available at the door for \$5.

"In The Heat of The Night" will be presented at the Galleria. Priced at \$12 the party is directed at the women's community with dancing from 10 p.m. and live entertainment by The Flirts.

Also on Saturday is the Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians picnic in Golden Gate Park. Call 861-4767 for information. A Gay Comedy Extravaganza emceed by Tom Ammiano and Lea Delaria at Valencia Rose is priced at \$5 and starts at 9. The Full Moon Party is at Trocadero Transfer. "New Order" one of the biggest English groups will perform at the I-Beam. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8:30. Get in line early if you plan to go because it will be a sell-out. Trocadero Transfer is also putting on a fundraiser for Glide Church starting at 7. For \$15 there will be dinner and entertainment by Linda Hopkins.

SUNDAY

Sunday morning at 9 is Glide Church's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Celebration called "Speak Who You Are". At 11 the 1983 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade begins from Spear and Market Streets. The Celebration in the Civic Center begins at Noon. The New Sutter's Mill will be open at 8:30 a.m. in the

new location at 77 Battery Street. The Starlight Room at 7th and Market will also be open. "Metropolis" starts at 3 p.m. underneath the Civic Center. Tickets in advance are \$15 and the event stars Grace Jones. For "Metropolis" there will be in and out privileges so people can go outside and watch the celebration or go beneath to Brooks Hall.

Studio West in North Beach has an after parade buffet and reduced prices.

Conceptual Entertainment's Gay Day Tea Dance at the Galleria begins at 4. This organization has announced that a portion of the proceeds will go to the AIDS/KS Foundation. This is to be the procedure of Conceptual Entertainment until a cure for the disease is found. Entertainment at the Galleria will be by The Flirts. Sylvester performs at the I-Beam for their tea dance which begins at 6. A post-parade party, "Up The Down Staircase," at Amelia's starts at 4. At 7 is the 2nd annual Combined Festival Worship Service with all eight Bay Area affiliates of the Metropolitan Community Church at 150 Eureka.

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Film Festival also continues on at the Roxie Theatre.

The San Francisco Eagle on
(Continued on page 10)

Workers Strike Castro Bistro

by Mike Hippler

Union fever has hit the Castro. In recent months employees at several area restaurants have demanded union negotiations and, when refused, have found themselves on the picket lines. Employees at Little Italy, Without Reservations, and New York City Deli restaurants have all tried to unionize with varying results. The latest to join this group are the employees at Luisa's Italian Restaurant at 544 Castro, who began picketing Wednesday evening, June 15, and have been picketing every day since.

Union fever set in at Luisa's when Michael Ginther, a Luisa's waiter for the past ten months, became interested in the New York City Deli conflict and contacted the labor organizer there to see how the workers at Luisa's could organize. Ginther then began soliciting support for a

union from his co-workers, and soon 13 of the 17 employees there signed union authorization cards. Next, nine of these employees and the union representative, Gary Guthman of Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, confronted the owner of Luisa's, Luisa Han-

son, at one of her other businesses and told her of their desire to unionize. According to the employees, Hanson fired 11 of the 13 who signed union cards following this meeting. Three more additional meetings between Hanson and the ex-employees failed to produce positive results for either side. Consequently, following the last one, picketing began. In the meantime, another employee was fired, leaving only one of the original 13 union sympathizers remaining.

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Ex-employees picket Castro Street's Luisa's restaurant. (Photo: Rink)

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Celebrating Lesbian Liberation, 1983 (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Whitewash Charged

by Allen White

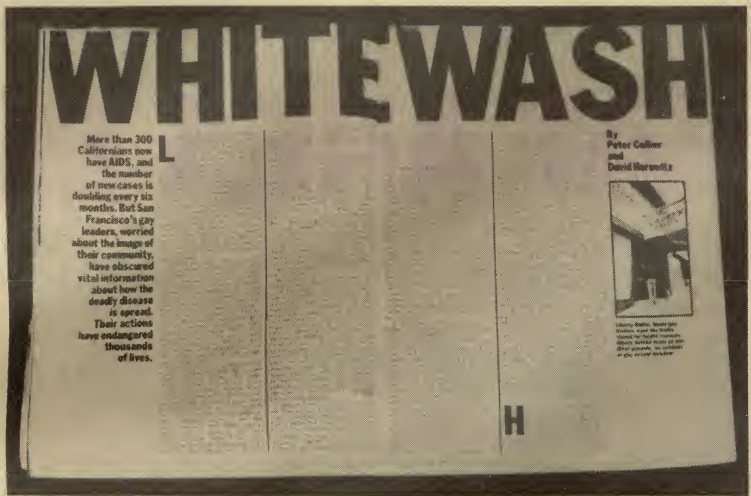
With "Whitewash" splashed across its covers, *California Magazine* takes aim at San Francisco's Gay community in their current issue. Reporters Peter Collier and David Horowitz accuse San Francisco's Gay leaders of obscuring vital information about how AIDS is spread. They charge that these leaders have endangered thousands of lives because they were "worried about the image of their community."

Currently the magazine is in the midst of a super-charged publicity campaign to sell magazines. Never in the history of the *Bay Area Reporter* have the paper and its reporters received as much PR hype on a single magazine story. Writer Horowitz has been scheduled from several radio talk shows. Advance copies of the magazine were sent to all media outlets.

Within the Gay community there has been fast and dramatic reaction. The *B.A.R.* has talked to several leaders in the Gay

community and asked for their reactions to the article.

Randy Shilts is a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* who is quoted extensively in the article. He said, "I am happy the story finally got into print." In the story he is accused of lobbying the San Francisco supervisors. He says he "surveyed" the legislators for their reaction to the AIDS crisis. The use of the word "lobby" is wrong. That, he says, is the only point in the story he would correct. The magazine attack is about the suppression



(Photo: Rock)

of a research study by Andrew Moss and Michael Gorman, two researchers at U.C. Medical Center. The study showed that 1 out of every 333 single men in the Castro area had been diagnosed with AIDS. Shilts charges he

was pressured to not run this story. His book publisher said a call had been received asking Shilts to stop writing about AIDS. Researcher Michael Gorman, according to Shilts, asked that his report not be made public. Also, he says that Randy Stallings, President of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, pressured him not to run the contents of the report because it would "hurt business in the Castro." "My job," states Shilts, "is to write stories, not suppress stories."

Randy Stallings responds in a lengthy statement: "Considering the number of workshops, seminars, and brochures on AIDS put forth by the AIDS/KS Foundation and the Dept. of Public Health, the outrageous lies in the article would be laughable were it not for the intense homophobia involved in the piece. Exactly what information has been suppressed? The libelous and vicious remarks made by (Catherine) Cusic, (Bill) Kraus, and Shilts in the article were clearly politically motivated and designed to embarrass Pat Norman, the Alice B. Toklas Club, the mayor, and several other groups not controlled by their self-righteous little clique. The Alice B. Toklas Club will continue to speak out against destructive hysteria and will continue to support the distribution of accurate, supportive, and informative materials on this terrible crisis."

Ron Huberman, also mentioned in the article, is the Vice-President of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club. He said, "This is a classic case of a journalist exploiting an issue to promote sales of a magazine. The issue is not whether or not a person is doing her job. The issue is to get all available information out to our community which is fighting this disease. The Milk Club stands against the use of AIDS as a tool to target anyone." "We do," he concludes, "stand for educating our community and the public with accurate information."

Konstantin Berlandt is the co-chair of this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. He is seriously criticized in the *California Magazine* story. Berlandt says, "I feel the article shifts the blame from government neglect to the community that is suffering from this disease. I said it was a complicated issue with many valid posi-

tions. I said I had indeed moderated my own behavior. He took parts of what I said out of context in order to set up a straw man for his sermon. It seems that someone feels threatened by a Black Lesbian running for supervisor. This looks like a hatchet job on Pat Norman to me." The parade co-chair further commented, "I also see this as an attack on the parade of the worst kind. Frightening people from marching for their civil rights is dangerous to democracy and I expect people will turn out in greater numbers against their fear."

Paul Boneberg is the President of the Stonewall Democratic Club. "The statements and allegations made about the Stonewall Democratic Club are completely false," says Boneberg. "It is time for the Lesbian and Gay community to come together and heal itself and not be divided by misrepresentations. I deplore the politicalization of a medical crisis and call upon those people involved to discuss their concerns in a less sensationalized manner than *California Magazine* has presented."

Milk Club President Carole Migden took a softer line. "It's unfortunate that the article presents a blanket condemnation of all Gay leadership. . . in fact, many individuals and organizations have worked tirelessly over the years to make public critical information which could help save Gay men's lives. Ultimately, though, the effect of the article will be beneficial because vital public health information will no longer be suppressed."

Bay Area Reporter editor Paul Lorch offered an opinion of the city's Gay media. "I have developed a distance between myself and the issue. I have learned dealing with AIDS is work for a bomb demolition squad. While the paper was mentioned repeatedly, I doubt seriously if the authors researched papers two years old running coverage. Had they, they wouldn't have had this story."

"All in all, it was a good, flashy read — like the plot of a new Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. I loved the latest cast of heroines and villainesses."

Lorch concluded that the piece was "class A docudrama — you can't beat it. The best response is to hang on, sit tight, and ride it out. More blood-letting only fuels the hype." ■

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NGTF Meets White House Aides

Representatives of the Gay community this week took to the White House concerns regarding national health issues, with special focus on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Virginia M. Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, made the announcement during a keynote speech before the Fifth National Lesbian/Gay Health Conference in Denver.

NGTF requested the meeting to press the Administration to greatly increase its \$17.6 million budget request for AID-related programs in fiscal year 1984. Apuzzo termed that funding level "totally inadequate." The Reagan Administration has already termed AIDS the nation's "number one" health priority. But Apuzzo said "such rhetoric is meaningless unless significant resources are put behind it. As it stands, AIDS funding represents only .2 percent of the Public Health Service's budget."

Apuzzo pointed to several areas where inadequate funding has stalled the battle against AIDS:

- "The Centers for Disease Control are still reeling from a 20 percent cut made in their budget in 1981. CDC doesn't have the resources to do the basic surveillance work essential during an epidemic."

- "The problem of appropriate screening of blood has been at the forefront of public discussion for over a year. Yet no serious work has been done by the government to test surrogate markers to screen blood for potential AIDS carriers."

- "Basic research is going unfunded. We cannot allow any paths to go unexplored because the National Institutes of Health are lacking money or are moving too slowly in awarding what funds they have."

NGTF also underscored the Administration's neglect of a

range of health matters affecting Gays and Lesbians. These include, for example, problems of alcoholism and substance abuse.

"The failure of the government to recognize and deal with health issues facing Gays and Lesbians is a reflection of the oppression we experience in American society," Apuzzo declared. "When you are discriminated against across the board, it becomes easy for government officials to ignore your needs. We are seeing the tragic result of this in the delayed and inadequate response to AIDS, which has cost the lives of many in our community."

The June 21 meeting was between representatives of NGTF and the Gay community and Judy Buckalew, Special Assistant to the President for health issues in the Office of Public Liaison.

More complete details of the meeting will be unfurled in next week's issue. ■

Stress Management

District Health Center #1 is holding a six-week stress management program beginning July 26th. All six sessions will be held at the Center, located at 3850 - 17th Street, on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM to 9 PM.

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HEADLINES

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Margaret M. Heckler Addresses AIDS

Speech by Secretary of Health and Human Services at U.S. Conference of Mayors in Denver, Colorado on June 14, 1983

Today I want to talk with you about an unusual and urgent situation. My subject is a disease — a disease with two names. One name is "AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome." The other name is "Fear." Not "Concern." Not "Caution." But unreasoned and unsubstantiated fear.

Many of you who represent some of our larger cities, and especially cities with large Gay populations, have already been confronted with the problems of AIDS itself.

I am concerned that all of us might also be confronted with an unnecessary and unjustified level of fear, if misunderstanding of AIDS is allowed to grow. Such a level of fear could actually impede us in our real tasks — to understand and conquer this disease, and to care for its victims.

I am here to report on the **facts** about AIDS. The facts alone are an antidote to fear. And the facts are telling us, more and more clearly — **not** that AIDS is spreading throughout our population — but, to the contrary, that the risk of AIDS is confined to identifiable factors. For the overwhelming majority of Americans, there appears to be little or no risk of falling victim to this disease — in particular, through normal, daily social contacts.

Today, I would like to share with you the research into AIDS that our department is performing; to correct false information about AIDS that may have reached the public; and to assure you of my absolute commitment to finding a cure for this cruel disease.

FEDERAL COMMITMENT

But nothing I will say is more important than this: That the Department of Health and Human Services considers AIDS its number one health priority. Your fight against AIDS is not a solitary one. We are in the fight with you. And I am confident that we will find the answer.

As we know, AIDS is a scientifically complex, extremely puzzling disorder. But if there is

one thing that is *not* mysterious about AIDS, it is *why* the disease is so frightening.

From its unknown origins to its devastating effects, AIDS is indeed a terrifying ailment.

It attacks young, productive people — and it kills 80% of its victims within two years of diagnosis.

It destroys the body's ability to fight infection. And there is no known path of recovery once the immune system has been attacked.

Every day, four or five new cases of AIDS are reported, perhaps doubling the number of victims every six months. At present, we do not know how to restore the immune system that has been destroyed in AIDS patients, leaving them vulnerable to a multitude of diseases. We are

concerned principally because of the suffering of AIDS victims and fatality of the disease. But we are also concerned from the standpoint of this nation's preparedness to cope with a long-term debilitating illness requiring intensive use of hospital facilities and personnel.

Thus, we feel that AIDS is a most urgent medical dilemma; and we recognize that AIDS presents a serious problem in our cities.

However, we are learning how the disease is spread. And we are finding that there is no indication that AIDS can be transmitted through casual, everyday contacts. Apparently, only the most intimate contact can transmit AIDS.

There have been some occurrences in people who do not ac-



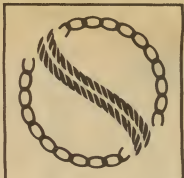
Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services

tually belong to one of the high risk groups. But many of these cases are women who are sexual partners of men with AIDS or at high risk for AIDS. Others, tragically, have been babies born to those women or to women who are abusers of intravenous drugs.

Still, we can state that the disease is spread almost entire-

ly through sexual contact, through the sharing of needles by drug abusers, and, less commonly, through blood or blood products, including transmission in-utero. There should be no cause for fear among the public that they may develop AIDS through casual contact with an

(Continued on page 20)



LESBIAN/GAY
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VOL. XIII NO. 25 JUNE 23, 1983

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS



(Photo: Rink)

A Time to be Proud

This issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* — the parade annual — reaches 56 pages. A prodigious feat for us, and we hope a treat for our readers. We are proud of our product.

We thank our writers who dig and shovel for the innards of their stories. Few of us appreciate the labor and energy they expend in the completion of their mission.

This is also parade week and the city is running over with dinners, receptions, dances, exhibits, and, above all, visitors. We welcome these visitors and wish them the best of holidays. This is not the time for us to hang our heads or to imbibe guilt for marching, demonstrating, and enjoying ourselves and our lifestyles.

As we go to press, Dr. Marcus Conant, president of the board of the national AIDS/KS Foundation, has just returned from a White House meeting with aides to President Reagan. Along with Virginia Apuzzo, head of NGTF, he engaged in a cordial one-hour session with a presidential liaison and an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. It was agreed that it would be the first of many meetings. The White House is listening; they don't agree down the line with our spokespeople's agenda. Dr. Conant stressed the urgency of the problem, the need to cut through red tape, and the administration's need to understand the nature of the crisis and the few plausible approaches.

In this week of our Pride — amid the spirit-breaking plethora of bad news — I sense a bright ray (albeit slight) of hope. We have reached the top. Our fellow countrymen and women are listening and concerned over our crisis. And our lives. And we can expect them only to think well enough of us as we do of ourselves.

Paul Lorch

Loves Western Drag Too!

★ Hooray for Woody Underwood! (who "Misses Western Drag", B.A.R. of 5/26/83). Away from work, my lover, who is from Texas, and I have been wearing "that look" for years because it's so damn comfortable, down home, and very practical too (those wide-brim cowboy hats do a wonderful job of keeping the damaging sun off so you don't get old-looking squinty eyes before your time, not to mention the great risk of skin cancer that the sun gods are so dangerously courting.)

And *fer ice breakin'* you can't beat western drag for meetin' people who aren't stuck on themselves! The kicker look is a lot friendlier, less intimidatin' 'n less threat'n than that of our wrapped-in-leather or neatly pressed an teased brothers.

Long Live Kicker Clothes For The Practical and Unpretentious!

Joe Santoyo
San Francisco

'We Expect'

★ We would like your readers to know that "a Lesbian Mothers' Day in the Park", a landmark occasion, took place in San Francisco despite the lack of coverage by the gay and feminist media. Two hundred lesbian mothers and kids gathered together, including babies, teenagers, mothers and grandmothers, Black, Native American and white women and kids. The afternoon was lots of fun in addition to being a place where mothers and children could meet and informally pool resources and information. Many mothers, their friends and lovers, were jubilant that such an event took place as there are few occasions where this kind of interaction can occur. Only 10 years ago this would have been impossible.

In the future we hope that your paper will report more fully on our organizing instead of being yet another barrier lesbian mothers have to face in combating our isolation and invisibility. Fear of losing custody of our kids, lack of time and money, poor quality or nonexistent childcare are only a few of the many obstacles we are already up against. Wages Due Lesbians is organizing to change these conditions and we expect the "diversity", including lesbian mothers, that Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day claims to represent be reflected in Gay publications throughout the entire year.

Lori Nairne
San Francisco

'No Ivory'

★ A letter, entitled "No Ivory Soap Float" in the June 9, 1983 issue is an insult to the many fine people in Oakland who would like to have entered a float in the parade but could not do so for many various reasons, and racial affirmative action was not one of them. Dion B. Sanders does a discredit to many fine people who have raised money for charity and many worthy Gay causes in spite of their racial handicap of being as white as ivory snow. One of the few remaining choices we have in our country is freedom of choice with whom we will associate without government interference. The Gay community all across America has always been the first to break social, racial or color barriers and invite all to premises in many still segregated communities. Where an open door policy exists and people of color choose not to participate, they do so freely and willingly. Mr. Dion B. Sanders through his letter seems to sarcastically suggest that we have busing and affirmative action as the next great Gay project.

Andrew J. Betancourt
San Francisco

SSI and SSA Benefits

★ Please print a prominent correction to your lead story, June 9, 1983 issue. Your statement that "SSI does not pay during the first five months of illness" is not correct and could cause your readers to lose benefits that would be payable to them. There is no waiting period for SSI benefits. In addition, an application for SSI has no retroactivity and benefit payments are prorated to the day the application is signed. If your readers wait five months to apply they may be giving up five months of payment. Or, even if they delay (sick people often have difficulty getting into an office for a lengthy interview) thinking that there is no urgency due to the five month waiting period, they may be permanently disadvantaged.

It is true that there is a five month waiting period for Social Security disability benefits (as opposed to SSI—Supplemental Security Income). SSA applications have twelve months retroactivity, so it does not matter if this application is delayed, but it is important that you emphasize to your readers that SSI applications should be filed as soon as possible after the onset of the illness.

James Franklin
San Francisco

Toes Tip

★ It was refreshing to see someone else defend our sexuality (last week's letter to the editor from the officers of Alice B. Toklas Demo Club). And the very conspicuous idea that one's chances of contracting AIDS is just as high as tricking with someone wherever that someone is met.

Personally, from my exposure to the baths during the last six months, I believe that a large percentage of bath customers go there for a large variety of reasons — with sex being the least of reasons.

The baths are, fortunately, a very comfortable environment for just meeting people — as opposed to the bars, for instance. It is also much easier, at the baths, to escape the smoke filled, music blasting environment which is found at bars.

The steam rooms at all baths, can be an exceptional place just to sit, meditate and use as incredible echo chambers. I have spent many hours just making weird sounds in the steam room at 8th and Folsom.

And as for just plain voyeurism, there is no better place. I, for instance, caught a couple of my "hot" men together on one open bed — and when I started sucking on their toes — they just went wild.

Steve Perkins
San Francisco

Vacaville Pal

★ About two weeks ago, I wrote to the B.A.R. asking if you would publish my name in the Pen Pal section of your paper. I do understand that it takes some time, but I was wondering if you could let me know if you received my last letter as the mail system in prison isn't all that adequate.

I am a G.W.M., 28 yrs. old, 5'7" tall, 185 lbs., I am full-blooded Portuguese. I write prose, poetry and play the tenor saxophone and guitar. I am a Libra. I am presently incarcerated on a parole violation. My release date is March 25, 1984. . . I would enjoy corresponding with anyone in the Gay community.

Is there any way to furnish the prison library with a free subscription to your paper? We have a lot of Gay people here at Vacaville, I'm sure they would enjoy it.

My address is: John B. Britto C-34766; N.R.C.; P.O. Box 2000, T-364; Vacaville, CA 95696.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter.

John B. Britto
Fall River, MA

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LETTERS



Sylvester at the Opera House

* Thank you for your story on the Michael Raines discrimination suit against the War Memorial Board of Trustees. I was especially interested in Mr. Boone's assessment of the Opera House concert starring Sylvester. He was "disturbed by the apparent lack of decorum at the event." I do not recall seeing Mr. Boone at the concert, but considering I was the coordinator of the event for Sylvester's management team, I am familiar with the attitudes displayed by Mr. Raines and the Board in general.

Michael Raines was instrumental in allowing the event to happen: he was relatively new in the position and was interested in opening up the facility to reflect more of the city's cultural diversity. He was totally helpful and supportive. The event itself was sold out, recorded as a live album, and winner of the Cable Car Award as Outstanding Concert Event of the Year. The audience was attired in everything from tails to leather (and combinations thereof.) Those attending seemed to realize it was a special evening, and at no time did the event get out of hand. If a show of enthusiasm indicates a lack of decorum, perhaps the ballet and opera should be shut down.

Following the event, our office heard vague rumblings from the Board about "damages to the facility." When questioned about what damage was done, the response was that people put cigarettes out on the floor and — good heavens — were drinking champagne in the boxes!

The War Memorial Board of Trustees is charged with the task of administering the Performing Arts Center. The members are appointed to their position; anyone who reads the society columns would be familiar with their names. The problem with having such an insular Board is that, over the years, it seems they have gotten the impression that it is THEIR Opera House, and the very idea of a black queen singing disco! Well, obviously it was felt that this just was not done. Obviously, someone had to pay for allowing this to happen — unfortunately, it apparently was Michael Raines. If one doubts that this is their attitude, one only has to count how many non-classical events take place in any of the facilities under their administration.

I am grateful to Mr. Raines for enabling a truly special evening to take place, and wish him luck.

Erik Nielsen
San Francisco

Medicals and Morality

* Guy Straight's diatribe denying the deadly reality of AIDS serves a useful purpose in demonstrating an alarming syndrome, shown by many in SF, who have mistakenly merged together the medical and the moral in viewing this disease.

Although we may separate out and discount any moral connection, any blaming of promiscuous sex for the disease, that does not sever the real epidemiological link of such sex to its spread.

Perhaps it is this seeming association of sex with "sin and retribution" that angers so many. But, while denying a moral nexus of sex and AIDS may be well-justified, denying any relation at all is just foolish.

Contrary to GS's assertions, we do know something about AIDS: we know it has linked itself to blood and sex, neither of which is the culprit, but both of which apparently aid and abet.

What moves researchers to release their figures attesting to this is fear for the Gay community, not of it.

Assinine would better describe GS's "bareass facts."

1. I am not relieved that "only" 500+ cases have so far succumbed to AIDS (high as this is in comparison to many other reportable diseases) because most cases have only recently begun their suffering, and some time must pass before their course is run — GS's figures are deceptively low.

2. Dying "naturally" of a heart attack in my 70s, 80s, or 90s is certainly not comparable to dying unnaturally of AIDS in my 20s, 30s or 40s.

3. Nor am I made complacent at the thought that added to my chances of murder and mayhem in this life is the risk of AIDS.

4. I am concerned even though there are "only" 1500+ cases of AIDS because:

a. With an apparent one-to-two year incubation period, incidence information is like light from a distant star — what we are seeing now reflects events which occurred one or two years ago. We have yet to see the true magnitude of current cases — those infected and incubating. New York City, a light year ahead of us in this epidemic, beams disaster, not relief.

b. Further, with most of the cases in Northern California amongst Gays, we are the true denominator. While the whole population may, indeed, be at potential risk, the real risk, currently, is largely ours.

5. A Gay man in this city is more likely to be run over and killed by AIDS than by an automobile.

GS simply awaits a stroke of luck, or a miracle, to end AIDS — I hope that he is right.

But he is wrong in saying that the losers in AIDS are those who feel denied unlimited partners — I think it is clear who the real losers are.

Is Gay liberation equated with Gay-liberationism? Are we prepared to defend our right to promiscuity unto death? Or is it a part of the spectrum of Gayness, (as is Gay celibacy). While it may not endanger our Morality, it may, at present, endanger our Mortality.

We've had a season for such sexuality, but the time has now turned toward a new purpose; sparing each other of any reasonable risk.

AIDS is frightening, and some have chosen to run scared rather than to stand and look around, see what is happening, and, even though not fully able to know and understand the danger, able at least to move away from it — not continue heading towards it.

Bob Stempel
San Francisco

Thoughts on Passing

* Yesterday I came back to San Francisco from a few quiet simple days alone, by the coast, and read that Mark Feldman has died. I have somehow been touched and saddened by that struggle as much as any other in my life.

We weren't friends at all, but passing acquaintances. I'd seen him act as Treasurer at several Coalition for Human Rights meetings; dealt with him twice quickly at New College; and saw and heard him as a participant in the AIDS march. Then there were the statements in the news media on various issues, like AIDS. Oddly for me, it was on returning from Boston after another kind of clarifying journey that I first read of Mark's struggle. All that I saw and heard made Mark a decent man in my mind, where occasionally he would show up, as a foil, a friendly victim of my personal theory and therapy for the breakdown of a person's immunological defense.

For instance, while bicycling along the coast these last days, I'd imagine asking, "If our immune system breaks down, isn't it a clean, simple, fundamental environment, the place to retreat from the struggle, recover your physical, creative integrity, living while we reconstruct our defense? When life itself is threatened? A fundamental threat can be defeated by a pure, simple, positive defense. Would Mark have tried it? He was very distracted. Will someone now?

Because when I watched and stood with 10,000 men, sending the real thing to Mark and the brothers on stage at the AIDS march, I thought, "These men can make it." For me, Mark especially seemed expansive enough to receive the energy and ride it to safety. To a simple, simple creative place. Is there one to go to? Can there be?

It's fine to have such a reaction to a passing acquaintance; to want a good man to live forever. Which Mark will I've figured out, because fundamentally good men can and do. Creative living is a formula for that. The Universe exists through creative patterns. And Mark has obviously made it. I'm even a little envious of him, and my dreamtime is scheduling me for something closer than our recent pattern managed to produce. And it will happen.

Because I know when the real thing comes along. Congratulations Mark, to you, your people, your family and your friends.

Daniel O'Connor
San Francisco

More Omissions

* To the Gay Events Tape: You are not alone (B.A.R. 6/9): The Lesbian & Gay Jewish Activists also regrets being omitted from the parade's resource guide for two consecutive years. Since Gay Events Tape seems as safe as mother and apple pie, perhaps those repeated omissions were nothing more than unlikely mistakes.

Our current address is 729 Rand Avenue, Oakland 94610 and we look forward to meeting others at our second consecutive celebration booth. (When it comes to cashing those booth checks, the Committee has never forgotten.)

Ben Levy for IGJA
Oakland, CA

ED. NOTE: Welcome to the omitted club.

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LETTERS

In Memory

★ Thank you for including the moving and beautiful article "In Celebration of a Brother: Remembering Mark Feldman" in a recent issue.

Though I am an Episcopalian, I have felt a closeness with Jewish people for many years; I feel that we share a mutual joy, love and passion about ourselves and our place in the world.

Despite the terrible diseases now afflicting the gay community, there is now and will always be much to celebrate in our life.

So inspired was I by Mark Feldman's example that I am going to pledge some money regularly to the "Phooey on AIDS" Fund and the Mark Feldman fund.

I hope others will give generously to this as well, each one giving as his means allow.

Richard Ditewig
San Francisco

The Mark Feldman Fund

★ As special friends of Mark Feldman, we have established an AIDS fund in his honor. We who have been inspired by Mark's courage and leadership want his contribution towards the further understanding of AIDS to be continued.

This Fund will be administered by the office of Dr. Paul Bolberding, one of the principal physicians in Mark's battle with AIDS. Proceeds from the Fund will be used specifically for purchasing a computer that will serve in the analysis of data now available from AIDS patients. We have concluded through discussions with Mark, his family, Dr. Volberding, and others that this specific use of funds will be effective as a means of continuing Mark's interests.

From the inception of Mark's illness nearly a year ago, his primary concern has been to serve people through his example and active involvement in public education relating to AIDS. We invite you to be a part of his important pursuit by making a monetary contribution to the MARK FELDMAN FUND. In doing so, you will be expressing, through a specific objective, your support for Mark's ideals and for the love Mark exemplifies. As you know, all resources are important in this critical research endeavor.

Should you have additional questions about the Fund, please call Hanna Regev (business: 666-1504 / home: 566-7515). Or call Marilyn Ikezawa at Bank of America, 622-4334 for verification.

Sponsors, The Mark Feldman Fund
George Greenwalk, MD
Margie Greenwald
Bill Lambert
Hanna Regev
San Francisco

Aggrieved

★ I read with sadness your story on the deaths of four San Francisco men during the first week of June.

Mark Feldman's death especially touches me because Mark was able to do something for me few people have been able to do — he made me proud to be a Gay man.

Although I never met Mark, his vitality in the face of a terminal condition made me want to reach out to him and somehow take some of his pain. I wanted to tell him I loved him — pretentious as that may seem, my not having known him. Now it's too late. I had no idea he was so close to death when I saw him at the candlelight march.

I am grateful to his friend Naphtali for making public such a beautiful tribute to the strength of the brotherhood he continues to share with Mark. It is the kind of bond from which many of us might learn.

My love and support go out to all my brothers stricken with this disease. With the loss of each man, I feel clearly and deeply my own diminishing. At a terrible cost, I am learning to experience grief.

Paul Warren/
San Francisco

Organized Religion's Sterility

★ As a gay and an ex-Catholic, I am both amused and angered by the Church's recent policy statement concerning homosexual love and puzzled by the tenor of the continuing debate. The absurdity of recognizing our right to form lasting relationships so long as they aren't fulfilled sexually is so patent, so blatant, I wonder the Chron didn't stick the announcement on the comics page.

I stopped being a Catholic because, as a body and through the terrible weapon of dogma, the Church denied, ridiculed, and condemned who and what I was in my deepest heart. Now I'm being told I may return to the fold if I promise never to express physically, for as long as I live, all the love my heart contains.

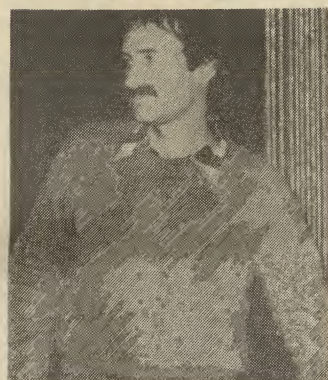
Why are gay people banging on those closed bronze doors anyway? The times call for a new faith, picking and matching from the old those elements that can serve our spiritual, emotional, and sexual life as it truly is, not as some arbitrary coterie of men in Rome or San Francisco would have it. Worship the Christos if you will, but let's consign this angry nitpicking Jesus the Church has invented to the place he belongs, the land of heroes, of Hercules, Theseus, Horus, Marduk, and Paul Bunyan.

God lives in each one of us, whole and complete.

Organized religion as presently constituted is the worst form of tyranny: of the soul.

R.J. Florence
San Francisco

On Mark Feldman



★ I am sad to read of the passing of Mark Feldman (B.A.R., June 9, 1983); a true friend and ally for the cause of Gay Freedom. I knew Mark only on a casual basis during our time together with the Advocate Experience in 1978. I remember him as a person with a bright gleam in his eyes, with a zest for life, and as a fellow with high integrity in his actions.

Leaving us at age of 31 would to many, I suppose, seem to be a waste of all the joys that a long life can bring. In the case of Mark though, I'm sure that he died with a sense of satisfaction that he made a difference while he was here. He took the initiative to get involved in as much as he could.

His passing inspires me to say that I believe that for those of us who are inclined to sit around and bitch about our circumstances, would do better to become people of action for the purpose of making a difference. It's easy to say that something should be changed. It's harder to risk action to affect change, but it's a win in the longrun. Mark took risks and he was a winner.

Larry Marcus
San Jose, CA

In Response to "Sweet William"

★ Dear William Stevens,

I have been a reader of the B.A.R. for about five years and enjoy the "Letters to the Editor" section very much. I do have to tell you that your letter (June 2 edition) broke the laugh-o-meter in the cheap thrill category. There are a few points that are slightly more vague than the whole letter. How can you talk about "sane, moral Americans" when you don't seem to have any idea what the words "sane" and "moral" mean?

If the B.A.R. is a filthy, commie rag, then why do you read it? Is the reason you read the sex ads because the only way you can find a man is to find one in the newspaper that doesn't know or has ever talked to you? I am certain that anyone who talks to you for more than 3½ seconds will realize that you can't be fully there and they wouldn't have a damned thing to do with you.

I don't know how to break this to you, "BUSTER," but it is not the '50's and Joe McCarthy has been dead for years. To use your own words, you "offend all moral Americans." To be fair, I do have to say that you did know what you were talking about on two points. From your usage of the words "nigger" and "commie," you definitely know what the words "racist" and "prejudiced" mean. And referring to the words "shithead" and "jackasses," you should be quite familiar with these, being one yourself. You might as well save your dimes, "BUSTER," because nobody you call is going to give a damn anyway.

In closing, I highly doubt you have any friends, let alone in the F.B.I. Unless those initials stand for "FLAKEY," "BIGOTED," "INDIVIDUALS." It is too bad your "intelligence quotient" is not as high as your "flake quotient." When you decide to pull your head out of your "Beautiful Young Ass," you might look through this "filthy, commie rag" and search out psychiatric help for your "helplessly depraved" mind. (??) I don't believe anyone would actually have the nerve to use his real name on a letter like yours, but I have the pride to use my real name in a letter like this that puts people like you in your place.

Danny Rodrigues
Hayward, CA

Growth and Decline

★ We seem to have a fixed notion that "incidence of AIDS doubles every six months." Recent data from San Francisco, however, are consistent with a 30% increase every six months, rather than a 100% increase.

AIDS disease remains a real and growing threat. But we should keep in mind that all epidemics eventually wane — often, as swiftly as they grew.

John Newmeyer, Ph.D
Epidemiologist
Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic

LETTERS

From Good to Bad Over Nudes

★ This is to formally request that our advertisement be deleted from the *Bar Area Reporter* effective immediately.

At the time we placed our initial ad, the *B.A.R.* was a good "news" paper. Several months ago, we viewed the paper only to find nude photos which we felt were unnecessary and offensive to the majority of our clients. It had been our hope that the pornography would be removed allowing us to again enjoy the paper for news and as reading material for our clients. However, this does not appear to be the case.



R. R. Rhodes
San Jose, CA

ED. NOTE: The *Bar Area Reporter* formula has been essentially the same for the past 13 years. The only change is that those who posed have aged by 13 years or retired. I would suggest the ad didn't draw.

P. Lorch

Some Oversight

★ I'm extremely sorry that your publication was mistakenly omitted from this year's *Parade Program Resource Guide*. I'm presently looking into this oversight, of which I take total responsibility, and will see that this does not happen again next year. We have tried very hard to see that the *Resource Guide* is updated and accurate.

I would like to thank you and your paper, on behalf of the *Parade Committee*, for your support and help. I'm sure this year's *Celebration* will prove to be one of the best.

Your paper will be listed on our correction sheet to be placed next to the program at various distribution sites. Again, I'm very sorry for the oversight.

Paul Gross
Resource Guide Editor
San Francisco

Missouri Pal

★ I am on Death Row here at the Missouri State Pen. I've been here on Death Row 18 months.

The reason I am writing you is I am from California. I lived there all my life till I came here.

Sir, I have no one to hear from in the outside world. Never getting a letter is very lonely here on Death Row.

Sir, do you know of anyone who would like to write to a prisoner on Death Row.

White male, 24 years old, 5'11", 160 pounds, green eyes.

Frankie J. Guinan
Box 900 CP 18
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Job Discrimination Victory

★ Last year I was fired from a very large law firm in the financial district for being a "faggot" and a "queer" and that the particular attorney who was alleging this also stated that I groped him.

For almost three weeks I did nothing about it, as it was a situation that I feared might happen because of my choice of sexuality and it left me devastated. I contacted my attorney, Mr. Opre Wilson, of the law firm of Wilson & Slavitt (located in the financial district) and he began the process of litigation with this law firm that alleged my "groping."

Through the work of Mr. Wilson, this law firm settled within three months. It was through the professional work of Mr. Wilson (who was not in any way afraid of beginning litigation on another law firm) that enabled me to receive a settlement so soon.

I am sending this to your paper now as the litigation is over, and want to let other people know that we do not have to accept such abuse in our work places. I am a professional and will not allow a bigoted person such as the attorney that accused me of "groping" to get away with such actions, to slander and try to ruin my career as a consultant, even if he is an attorney or a president of a corporation. I encourage other people who have had a similar experience or may have one in the future to seek legal proceedings against a person slandering you.

I also encourage other Gay men and women to obtain Opre Wilson's expertise in conducting their litigation. He is one attorney I have found in the financial district that will work with Gay people in a professional and understanding way.

Let's continue to protect our rights in our work environment.

Patrick Kelly
San Francisco

Why Just Sala?

★ I always thought your paper made a point of looking at all the political candidates in a race and let the reader know what they had to say about Gay people.

What happened to your political writer Wayne Friday on this one. Too tied to Mrs. Burton's pocketbook to give a damn. Sure looks like it.

William Frank
San Francisco

Hasty Pudding

★ There was a serious misrepresentation in a recent column by Wayne Friday which needs to be corrected. East Bay Representatives Ronald V. Dellums and Forney Pete Stark have worked in a special appropriations bill. Unfortunately this bill ultimately also contained a special military appropriation for the already bloated Pentagon. So in spite of their hard work to include the AIDS funding, they felt bound to vote against the bill in its entire completed form. Dellums and Stark have been two strong consistent friends of the Lesbian/Gay community. Wayne Friday unjustly blasted them as being opposed to AIDS funding because of their votes on this bill. Their votes were an unfortunate result of AIDS funding being linked with increased military spending. However, to say that they oppose additional money for AIDS research contradicts the facts. Such mistakes are all too easy to make as politics can be more complicated than three-dot journalism.

East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club
Statement adopted by consensus at
General Meeting, June 12th 1983

Health on the River

★ Last week in your "Letters" section, you printed a short note from a resident of Guerneville on AIDS in the Russian River area. The note alarmingly claimed that Russian River is overrun with cases of the dreaded disease. The undeniable impression was that AIDS had impacted the area much more seriously than other Gay living spots of California and to come here would be an inordinately high risk.

As a new, seasonal resident of Guerneville, I want to put the problem in proper perspective. Since the Russian River area is a Gay summer resort spot, it is absolutely expected that AIDS would be found here too. This is especially true when you take into consideration that many visit here from San Francisco and around the Bay throughout the year. Also, a large part of the permanent, year-round resident population is Gay. According to local media, there have been four deaths due to AIDS this year. With that figure in mind, I would seriously question anyone who leaves the impression that the AIDS virus — if it is a virus — is spreading like crazy along the River.

More serious is the accusation implicit in the said note that the AIDS outbreak is a result of gross unsanitary conditions of the Gay businesses. This accusation not only feigns knowledge no one else has on what causes AIDS, but it is also an outright lie! Gay businesses in towns such as Guerneville, Monte Rio, etc., are clean, overstaffed, well-kept establishments trying to maintain a toe in an increasingly competitive environment during a time of deep recession and high unemployment.

The Gay businesses on the River have recreated an economy for both Gays and straights in the area. Although a lack of unions and job security together with relatively low wages and erratic, unpredictable hours characterize the bulk of jobs provided, these businesses have also enabled some people to find work here who could not elsewhere.

The people who live here are far from lethargic in doing something about whatever AIDS problems exist here. For instance, a couple of weeks ago I attended a lecture on the immune system sponsored by the health food store in Guerneville. That's just one small example.

Name withheld by request
Guerneville, CA

Benefit Thanks

★ I would like to thank the following people who contributed so much towards the success of the AIDS and KS Fundraiser at The Brig on June 8:

The Bay Area Gay Businesses for their most generous donations; the Staff and Management of The Brig for providing such a spectacular and delicious Buffet, and their wonderful donation to the fund; Artie Haber, Secretary of Interchain New York, for the beautiful flower arrangement to decorate the Buffet; the people who were unable to attend, but sent Checks instead; the Raffle Ticket Sellers; Sonny Padilla Jr. for helping me M.C.; Harry Britt and Bob Ross for attending the function; last but not least, a big thank you to everyone who came to the event and gave so generously.

I am very pleased to report that we raised a total of \$1,685, the bulk of which will go towards research for a cure for AIDS. \$450 goes to the S.F. AIDS Fund which helps patients with AIDS who cannot afford Medical Attention and Housing.

I was proud to be associated with this event. It only goes to prove that when we work together for a common cause we can achieve our aims.

Alan Selby
Guerneville, CA

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Raines Case Ends in Mistrial

Michael Raines, former director of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, received a major setback Friday in his discrimination suit against the city.

After nearly a week of deliberation, a nine-woman/three-man jury reported back to the judge that they were deadlocked. On the first two of Raines' five charges they were split six to six. On hearing the jury's impasse, Superior Court Judge Richard T. Figone declared a mistrial and dismissed the jury.

When Raines was dismissed from his post early in 1980, he charged that he lost his job because he was Gay. He said that then Chairman of the War Memorial Board Philip Boone plotted to oust him because he did not like homosexuals.

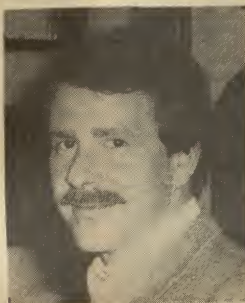
Raines was dismissed in a quick, callous session of the board at 10:33 a.m. on January 30, 1980. Three of the directors who had supported Raines decided not to attend the session. The eight present voted to dismiss him and demanded that he hand over his keys and clear out of his office within 24 hours. The dismissal session took less than 30 minutes. Raines left the meeting and stood alone outside and briefly wept.

The defiant Raines later said he would file suit against the city trustees because "I want to see to it that this kind of old-fashioned bigotry is never permitted in San Francisco again." He charged Boone "manipulated this board into terminating me out of hostility to Gays in positions of responsibility. The trustees' action was blatantly anti-Gay."

Boone replied that Raines "had 14 months in that position to win the admiration and respect of this group and he did not do so."

Raines contends that the turning point may have been a 1979 concert in which he scheduled Sylvester, a Gay disco singer, in the Opera House. Some directors, including Boone, did not like this, even though the house was sold out. They let Raines know of their discontent and shortly thereafter a private search firm was hired to seek a new director.

The directors established a new position title for the Direc-



Michael Raines loses case in a deadlocked jury. (Photo: Rink)

tor of the Performing Arts Center. It now includes the new Davies Symphony Hall as well as Herbst Theatre, the Zellerbach Rehearsal Halls, the Veterans Building, and the Opera House.

Raines says he believed that he would be included in the selection process of a new director, but instead the private search firm excluded him. He testified that the firm only talked with him in a cursory manner and he did not think it was a formal interview. Raines said he understood that he would be considered no matter what the firm did in its search process. However, in the end the company recommended only George Matson, who was hired.

Scott Blakey reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* at the time, "Sources close to the board suggested that the search firm was instructed to ignore Raines in their search." If this is true, then the company was also party to the dismissal of Raines.

The attorneys representing Raines were two upfront Gay activists — Matt Coles and Mary Dunlap. Coles believed that

Raines had a strong case and "I only take the ones I think I can win."

The trial lasted for two weeks and according to observers was the first major case claiming job discrimination under San Francisco's first-in-the-nation 1978 ordinance prohibiting bias against Gays.

The judge at one point in the trial threw out a key part of the suit when he ruled that Raines could not seek civil damages for any violations of the 1978 law. He said that a city cannot create a law allowing people to sue for civil damages; only the state can make those laws.

Raines had sought \$490,000 in lost wages and future earnings. He sought the same amount for emotional distress. He claimed he suffered because of the illegal discrimination and the invasion of his privacy.

Raines on Saturday told a *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter that he would reinstate the proceedings immediately.

"Although I'm exhausted, I have the energy to begin a new trial as soon as possible," he said. Over the two and a half years since his firing, Raines has made repeated appeals for funds from the Gay community to support his suit.

Looking back over the first trial, Raines observed, "I find it an absurd contradiction that the defendant trustees could all say they do not believe in discrimination, yet behind the jury's backs — authorize their attorneys to attack the constitutionality of the Gay Rights Ordinance."

Raines said the first trial cost in the \$20,000 range. The next trial — with much of the investigative work done — would be considerably less. ■

UC Regents Prohibit Discrimination

by Allen White

The University of California Regents have officially adopted a policy prohibiting discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians. The action took place at its June 17 meeting in Los Angeles. The resolution adopted by the Regents explicitly sets out the policy for the California University.

The action comes about as a result of work begun last March by student Regent Linda Sabo. Sabo had presented a statement to the Regents listing the variety of documented cases of discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians within the university's nine campus system. Attorney Thomas Coleman, who recently served as director of the California governor's Commission on Personal Privacy, told the regents that their policy statement was necessary despite state laws that prohibit such discrimination.

A survey by the University of California Lesbian and Gay Inter-campus Network found that about 10% of the university's 96,000 faculty and staff members are Gay.

UC Regent Sheldon Andelson told the regents, "Discrimination based on sexual orientation is still one of the filthiest and invidious forms of discrimination in the social and professional settings."

Andelson further stated, "It intimidates, inhibits, and sends chilling fear into the hearts and

minds of at least 10% of the people coming to the university and destroys their ability to develop as open and honest achieving people."

Professor Letitia Ann Peplan, a UCLA social psychologist told the regents that she found a "climate of repression that gravely threatens academic freedom and diminishes the self-esteem of homosexual students, staff and faculty." She labeled the situation "intolerable".

The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote. It read:

"The University of California shall not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. Current students and employees of the University shall be notified promptly of the adoption of this policy. To ensure notification of future students and employees, any future statements of the University's policies in relation to non-discrimination shall list sexual orientation whenever those statements enumerate characteristics such as race or sex." ■

Parade Week Finale

(Continued from page 1)

12th Street has a beer bust starting at 3 on Sunday to benefit the upcoming television show, "Out of Order: The Times of Harvey Milk". The donation is \$6.

Also on Sunday, the AIDS/KS Foundation will be joining with people who have AIDS and San Francisco's other AIDS organizations to form a contingent in the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. The Foundation will be distributing 25,000 condoms and 50,000 copies of risk reduction information.

The Foundation invites anyone interested in the fight against AIDS to join their contingent in the march. Rick Crane, Program Director for the Foundation, said, "This year it's more important than ever that our community and our supporters turn out in huge numbers to show ourselves and the world that we are fighting back against AIDS."

There is also work that needs to be done before the parade. Volunteers are needed to help stuff the condoms into envelopes and to assist with literature distribution. Call 864-4376.

Parties, seminars, poetry readings and just about every kind of activity will take place this week in San Francisco. Let your fingers do some walking through these pages of the *Bay Area Reporter* for the most complete run down of area activities to celebrate Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week. ■

A. White

THIS LETTER MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Much of our attention during the last two years has focused on the AIDS* epidemic. Many of us have been personally affected. We either know someone diagnosed with AIDS or have made changes in our own lives in our attempts to deal with what is known.

Despite all the attention in our community and on a national level, federal funding is still horrendously inadequate, while the number of cases continues to increase.

In the Bay Area the number of cases has been rising at an alarming rate:

BAY AREA CASES OF AIDS

	New Cases	Cumulative Totals
1980	11	11
1981	41	52
1982	122	174

If the current rate of increase continues, by the end of 1983 there may be as many as 250-300 new cases in San Francisco alone. Moreover, these numbers may represent the tip of the iceberg. There are many more people with initial symptoms of immune deficiency; and, if, as some doctors predict, the symptoms of AIDS don't appear until up to two years after infection, many apparently healthy people already have contracted AIDS.

SEX and AIDS?

There are several good reasons for gay men to concern themselves about sex during the present health crisis. The current theory about AIDS favored by most researchers proposes an infectious agent that may be spread both by blood and/or body secretions shared through sexual contact.

The exact relationship between sex and AIDS has not been determined. We do know that a number of gay men with AIDS do not fit the "fast lane" stereotype. However, even if future research finds that AIDS is not sexually transmitted, gay men still need to take precautions in sexual activities because of a second and long-standing crisis: the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) within our community. STDs—syphilis, gonorrhea, Hepatitis B, giardia, amoeba, shigella, etc.—are definitely interfering with good times and may also be weakening already compromised immune systems. **By reducing our risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, we may also be reducing our risk of contracting AIDS. For some of us, taking precautions will mean making sexual changes.**

As a result of the widespread fear in the community, some gay men have reacted to this crisis by abandoning sex or avoiding close contact and even friendship. **The joys of a healthy gay relationship far outweigh the fears of illness. It is important to understand that AIDS is not casually contagious; social contact with AIDS patients, living with AIDS patients, will not give you AIDS.**

SAFER SEX

For those of us who want to consider having safer sex, the following are **practical suggestions** based on our current understanding of AIDS and STDs:

- Decrease the **number of different** partners with whom we have sex. This does **not** mean that we should limit the amount of sex we have but only limit the number of different sexual partners.
- Having sex with a partner who himself has a number of different sexual partners may involve as much risk as having a number of sexual partners yourself.
- Oral-anal contact such as rimming can transmit Hepatitis A, amoeba, giardia, and shigella.
- Infectious diseases are often transmitted through an exchange of body fluids. There is a strong possibility that AIDS is transmitted in a similar manner; using a condom during intercourse will prevent many STDs and may reduce the spread of AIDS.
- Sexual practices, such as mutual masturbation, erotic massage, hugging and body rubbing, are pleasurable yet don't involve the risk of exposure to STDs.
- Talk with our sexual partners about our health concerns.
- Know the signs and symptoms** of AIDS and STDs.
- Seek early diagnosis and treatment if we become ill.
- Take good care of our bodies and our general health. Adequate rest, stress reduction, good nutrition and physical exercise are important.
- Minimize our ingestion of toxic substances, including alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, marijuana, poppers, and other recreational drugs.

There are many things that we as a community can do to combat this epidemic. Join and support local organizations working with AIDS. San Francisco is fortunate in that many services are available to deal with this crisis and that the city has responded in an exemplary manner to the needs of AIDS patients.

It is important for us to join and work together as never before and to contradict any attempts to graft homophobic arguments against our rights to concerns about this disease. Although initial incidences of this disease have been concentrated among particular groups, it is important to remember that the disease itself has no sexual preference or lifestyle, race, religion or national origin.

Political pressure for research and funding is essential and can be directed to the following persons:

SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Margaret Heckler / John Svahn
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

SENATOR PETE WILSON
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA BOXER
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510

For medical information and social service information and referral:

AIDS / KAPOSI'S SARCOMA FOUNDATION
514 Castro Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
415 / 864-4376

For AIDS patients, their lovers, friends, and families, free counseling and support (and those interested in providing volunteer counseling):

SHANTI PROJECT
890 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
415 / 558-9644

For medical screening: (call for appointment)

CITY CLINIC
356 7th St., SF 864-8100
HEALTH CENTER #1
3859 17th St., SF 558-3905
HEALTH CENTER #2
1301 Pierce St., SF 558-3256

This letter was written by the AIDS Coordinating Committee Media Relations Committee and is endorsed by the following agencies:

OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ROGER BOAS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR HARRY BRITT
SHANTI PROJECT
AIDS / KAPOSI'S SARCOMA FOUNDATION

* AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

is a condition whereby people have a severe loss of natural immunity against disease, leaving them vulnerable to illness (opportunistic infections) that might not otherwise be a threat. AIDS diseases include life-threatening Kaposi's sarcoma and Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia and a vast number of other serious and rare diseases.

** Be alerted to any of the symptoms of AIDS but be aware that these symptoms can be signs of a variety of common and less serious illnesses. These symptoms include persistent or prolonged fevers, night sweats, dry cough, shortness of breath, dramatic weight loss, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, gastrointestinal upset, creamy white patches on the tongue, cuts and infections that don't heal at a normal rate, anal itching, blurred vision, and purplish pink spots or nodules, skin rashes or discolorations.

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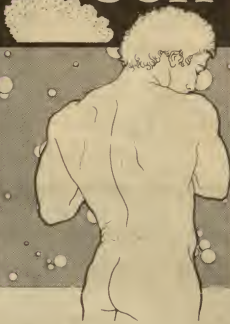


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Lesbian Parade Execs Make A Difference for '83

by Allen White

Linda Boyd is keeping busy these days. With Konstantin Berlandt she co-chairs the 1983 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee. She is also part of an extraordinary family that includes her lover, Barbara Cameron, and her 2½-year-old son, Rhys (pronounced Reese).

Together, with the help of an active parade committee, the pair has met the parity requirement written into the by-laws of the Committee. This year the by-laws call for a Parade Committee composed of Third World (30%), disabled (20%), youth (10%), and an equal number of men and women. They made their goal, and Boyd and Cameron believe the Lesbian and Gay community should realize and also share in the pride of the achievement.



'83 Parade pair: past co-chair Barbara Cameron and '83 co-chair Linda Boyd. (Photo: Rink)

Following a small revolution in 1980, the parade has revealed a focus for San Francisco's Gay community — parity. A fuller participation of Lesbians was the first accomplishment. This year witnessed an increased sensitivity to other minorities within the community.

Linda points to the work of the disabled. They will find two spots which are "safe" areas to not only observe the parade but also to view the celebration. One area is in front of the stage, the other at United Nations Plaza. Between the two locations will be a special path for disabled. Co-chair Boyd has led an effort these past few months to get input from many agencies sensitive to this need. Gay organizations such as the Rainbow Deaf Society have participated. The Oakland Council on Disability has given substantial technical assistance.

Cameron and Boyd's number one priority is a framework in which all Gay men and Lesbians can participate. They believe that sensitivity to the needs of the disabled has been better addressed in '83 because of the work of Jenni Mechem, Outreach Subcommittee Co-chair, who is herself handicapped.

The inclusion of the parade participants' list in the parade program was done to give people an idea of the options available. This was the result of many phone calls and work by March Subcommittee Co-chair Kirk Essler.

Linda notes that there is a unit called "Penguins for Gay Rights." Apparently the group is united by the love of penguins. Boyd says that if any other people like penguins, they can use the resource page and join this unique group. At the same time, people can search out the group they wish to get the best satisfac-

tion as they join in the parade.

To date, the number of parade entrants is running 25% ahead of last year. Trolley cars will be in the parade for the first time, courtesy of the Trolley Festival. Empress Connie is planning to be riding in a horseless carriage.

Barbara Cameron was the 1981 Parade Co-chair and is the current President of the Board of Directors. She has looked on as her lover, Boyd, co-chairs this year's event. She has high praise for the good working relationship between Linda and Konstantin Berlandt. She also is supportive of the success in realizing involvement by such a diversity of people. With the involvement has also come internal documentation of procedures.

Hopefully, future co-chairs will have written resource material as they plan parades. This documentation is part of the process to give further independence and diversity to the parade committee.

Cameron co-chairs with Jim Manness the Celebration Subcommittee. Their job is to oversee the activity on the stage. Barbara is particularly enthused about the "cluster theory" of this year's celebration. There are nine clusters. She notes the concept is designed to honor Lesbians and Gay men who have made significant contributions to the Gay movement. In the "Miami to May 21st" cluster the voice of Harvey Milk will be heard as well as will a recording of Anita Bryant singing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Speakers include Cleve Jones, Tom Amiano, David Waddell, and Amber Hollibaugh.

Hollibaugh is one of several Celebration participants who are being brought in from outside the area. Now living in New York, she is the co-founder of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay History Project. Harry Hay, founder of the first Mattachine Society in 1948 will also be speaking. Vocalists Charlie Murphy and Jami Seiber are

Cameron and Boyd's #1 priority is a framework in which all can participate.

coming from Seattle.

Another cluster is under the heading of "health." It will address the subject of AIDS. Boyd is well aware of the unique position faced by the Parade Committee as a result of this crisis. This year, the Parade Committee has heard a wide range of positions.

Caution has been one of the main priorities. On the back of

the parade program there is a full page directed to AIDS. Written by the AIDS Coordinating Committee, the ad is endorsed by the Department of Public Health, the Shanti Project, the AIDS/KS Foundation, the office of Supervisor Harry Britt, as well as the office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Roger Boas

Another priority has been to channel and mobilize the anger of the Gay community over this frightening disease.

A political incident this year has been the refusal of Governor Deukmejian to issue a proclamation for Gay Freedom Week in the state. When the Parade Committee issued a press release publicizing the position of the Governor, the city's Gay Republican club pulled out of the program and the parade. Linda Boyd said that she realized that the group had its own agenda and voiced no concern over their actions. She did say, however, that she felt the committee's action would have been appropriate whether the action was taken by a Republican or a Democrat. She also took the time to note that the Parade Committee is not run by a bunch of "left wing radicals." "It is simply not true," she said. Boyd noted that there are Republicans, Democrats, apolitical folk, conservatives, and liberals participating in the presentation of the parade. If anything, the Parade Committee can be accused of being too democratic. Virtually every action of the committee is approved by the general membership. The process that has been created calls for any opinion on any facet of the operation.

Cameron and Boyd say they are strengthening their relationship as they work on the parade. Barbara comments that at first she felt like she was stepping on toes as she watched her lover work as Co-chair. She also had to acknowledge the fact that her

lover was getting the attention which she received two years earlier when she co-chaired the event with Greg Day. As Barbara and Linda discuss the parade, young Rhys runs his fire engine through a tunnel he has built with building blocks. One cannot help but wonder if someday he too will be bringing together 200,000 people to celebrate freedom and pride. ■



'83 Parade Co-Chair Linda Boyd takes time from her busy schedule to relax and play with her son Rhys. (Photo: Greg Day)

POLITICS AND POKER

It's Nifty to be Fifty

WAYNE FRIDAY

Mayor Dianne Feinstein celebrating her 50th birthday by serving as Honorary Hostess of tonight's gala evening of entertainment at the Louise Davies Hall to benefit the AIDS/KS Foundation. Participants at tonight's show include Debbie Reynolds, Phyllis Diller, Sylvester, and Ed Asner.

Dave Wharton, unsuccessful in his attempt to win a seat on the Board of Supervisors last year despite endorsements from both the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, tells me he will definitely try again next year. • And Tom Spinoso, the Harold Stassen of San Francisco politics, claiming his recent removal as secretary of the County GOP Committee was engineered by "a group of homosexuals



Pat Norman takes a few tough press punches this week. (Photo: Rink)

and dissidents." Spinoso should take the hint and forget about politics; even his own party is laughing at him. • Sala Burton mourning the death of her father. • Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, the beneficiary of Alan Cranston's early endorsement in his recent bitterly-fought mayoral contest, has returned the favor by endorsing Cranston for president.

Lesbian/feminist activist Jo Kuney has been appointed to Senator Cranston's San Francisco staff. Kuney will resign as vice president of the Toklas Demo Club and Margaret Frost wants you to know she will be a candidate for the vacant Toklas office. • Everybody thought the Democrats made the right choice in picking San Francisco as its 1984 convention site (most still do). However, the first issue of *The Bush Report*, the new Washington newsletter by Larry Bush, on issues involving Gays made a prediction that unless there is some solid progress in finding a cure for AIDS, Democrats can expect large demonstrations during the convention.

District Attorney Arlo Smith and Public Defender Jeff Brown both scheduled to attend next Tuesday's (June 28) Milk Demo Club meeting at the Women's Building. This could turn out to be an interesting evening. • Board of Equalization member Conway Collis calling the shots in the Cranston for President California effort. • John Anderson is planning another independent bid for the White House in 1984, and the Democrats don't like it one bit. Some in the party still blame him, indirectly, for Jimmy Carter's devastating defeat in 1980, theoretically by siphoning off liberal money and energy that might have made a difference in close races. Some of those Democrats reared their ugly heads last week when it was announced that Anderson would be a guest speaker at Mo Udall's fundrais-

ing roast in D.C. Master of Ceremonies Ted Kennedy refused to introduce Anderson (singer John Denver eventually had to handle that chore) and some checkbook Democrat supporters of Walter Mondale actually stopped payment on their checks at the \$150 affair upon learning of Anderson's appearance. Other Democrats raised hell by demanding to know why the "spoiler" Anderson was even invited. Udall aide Ed Coyle explained that Anderson was there "because he and Mo are old personal friends."

Florida's Reuben Askew, a darkhorse Demo presidential candidate, cannot be faulted for kissing ass for the liberal vote. Askew, an old friend of Anita Bryant, is against Gay rights, is a strong opponent of organized labor's call for protectionist legislation, and boasts that he is the only Demo candidate campaigning against legalized abortion.

Who does this son-of-a-bitch think he is kidding? Shortly after a state parole board told Sirhan Sirhan last week that he is too dangerous to be free, the killer of Senator Robert Kennedy pleaded with the American people and the Kennedy family itself to help him. During the hearings Sirhan blamed Kennedy for his own murder, saying that the late senator "provoked" him, saying that Kennedy "wanted to kill my countrymen by sending airplanes and bombs to Israel." Ironically, Sirhan resides in a cell at Soledad next to that occupied by another piece of garbage, Dan White.

In Minnesota, a proposed University of Minnesota Hospital policy to identify Gay men as special-risk patients would invade privacy, a Gay leader at the Minnesota AIDS Project has charged. Eric Stults said his group may file a civil rights lawsuit; the proposal may be revised, a hospital official said.

An idea whose time has come? Governor Deukmejian is reportedly wavering in his long-time opposition to a state lottery. Other states have it and it is long past due in California.

California Magazine's feature story ("Whitewash") will do nothing to heal the rift between the Milk and Toklas Demo clubs, and will certainly do nothing to further the alleged political aspirations of Pat Norman; California writers Peter Collier and David Horowitz claim that "San Francisco's Gay leaders, worried about the image of their community, have obscured vital information about how the deadly disease is spread. Their actions have endangered thousands of lives." • This week's issue of *New York Magazine* has a cover story by Michael Daly on "AIDS Anxiety" that is must reading. *TIME Magazine* is reportedly coming out with a cover story on AIDS next week. ■



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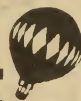
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Gay People of Color Come Out

'83 Parade Will Spotlight Minorities

"For far too long, Gay and Lesbian People of Color have been ignored by the (Lesbian/Gay) community . . . But 1983 may be a turning point . . ."

— Excerpt from a letter to the editor, Bay Area Reporter, June 9, 1983

by Dion B. Sanders

Mention the word "Gay", and most people — Gay as well as straight — conjure up a mental image of young, white men in Levis 501's, or in leather or drag. For Gay and Lesbian People of Color — Blacks, Latinos/Latinas, Asians and Native Americans — invisibility had been the order of the day for years, with their presence being made known only during Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day.

But in 1983, the rules are being challenged. Gay and Lesbian People of Color are coming out of the closet of invisibility and asserting themselves, breaking down not only the myth of the Lesbian/Gay community as being exclusively white, but also the myth that people of Color who are Gay do not exist.



Outreach Co-Chairs Ken Jones and Jenni Mechem. (Photo: Rink)

white male image is highly glorified (in the Gay media), especially the blond-haired, blue-eyed man," he said. "And many Gays — as consumers — buy into that image.

"That mentality is very limiting to one's growth as a Gay person of Color," Ng concluded.

ALGA general secretary Bill Matsumoto was vacationing in Hawaii and was unavailable for comment, but in a March interview with *The Advocate*, Matsumoto was quoted as saying about the stereotypes of Gays and of Asians: "The Gay community as a whole seems obsessed with stereotypes of what is masculine, what is male, what is 'Castro.'

"And a lot of Asians don't fit into the stereotypes for Gay Asians," Matsumoto continued, citing "the high-fashion disco queen or the passive, quiet little domestic houseboy type or the bookworm type."

Of all People of Color in the Lesbian/Gay community, Native Americans are perhaps the most invisible. Randy Burns, vice president of Gay American Indians, related that while GAI has been active within the Lesbian/Gay community, "Our primary focus is in the Indian community.

"Most of our members work within the Indian community," Burns continued, citing the fact that many GAI members live on

(Continued on page 21)

Kenneth Jones, co-chair for the Outreach Committee of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that compared to the past few years, "I have noticed something different . . . A lot of [Gay and Lesbian] People of Color have had a lot of problems [in the past] in terms of not feeling that their needs were met adequately [by the community].

"The Gay press is largely responsible for this," Jones continued, "but also there were not enough People of Color involved [in the community]... My own hope is that [The Parade Committee] continue outreach efforts year-round; that after the Parade, we could network and share our resources . . . to have a solid Lesbian/Gay People of Color network."

Jones, who is Black, cited the recent formation of a task force investigating race discrimination in employment in Gay-owned businesses as a "first step" in forming such a network.

In previous years, organizations representing Lesbian/Gay People of Color marched in the Parade as a single unit. At press time, however, it was uncertain whether the organizations would do so again this year.

The Gay and Lesbian Latino/a Alliance, for example, will march with *Batugala*, a Gay Latino samba troupe, at the head of a contingent of people in solidarity with the people of El Salvador.

The Association of Lesbian and Gay Asians has balked at marching as part of an overall People of Color contingent, preferring to stress its Asian identity.

Stanley Ng, an ALGA stand-

ing delegate, told the *B.A.R.* that while Asians in general "still face problems [of racism and discrimination] that all People of Color face," Asians "are not considered Third World anymore, in universities and places of employment — at least here in California."

Ng did, however, complain about the near-total lack of non-whites in the Gay media — newspapers, magazines, movies and even pornography. "The



Outreach '83 Program Co-Chairs Wiley Brown and Rosemary Regallo. (Photo: Rink)

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JULY 4th

Workers Strike Castro Bistro

(Continued from page 1)

The employees have a number of grievances against Luisa's. They claim that there is no job security there and no benefits of any kind — no medical or dental insurance, no sick leave, no paid vacation, no paid holidays. "If you took any time off at all," explains Ginther, "she would harass you for a month afterward." The employees also claim that Hanson only paid them \$3.35 an hour compared to a union rate of \$4.80. For overtime they were paid 50 cents less than standard rather than time and a half. Furthermore, most of them worked three or four hours a week extra without pay, they claim, as they had to check in and out at given times regardless of how long they worked. In addition, paychecks were seldom correct and pay raises were almost unheard of. Their major complaint, however, is "job harassment." "She would scream at you in front of people," states Kim Schieber, a cashier and bartender. "You had to take a great deal of personal abuse." Michael Ginther agrees. "It's been mental torture to work there," he concludes.

Luisa Hanson, not surprisingly, takes a different view of the conflict and says that she doesn't understand what the fuss is all about. "This was a shock to me," she states. "I didn't know of any discontent. Nobody came to me and told me they were unhappy with the conditions here. They never talked to me about it. They were very nice until the end." Hanson thinks that the union movement at her restaurant began when she had to shut down lunches because business was so slow. With the reduced hours she had to let go seven of her employees (not 11 in her version), and that's when she says the employees began to agitate for a union — not before. (The employees claim they were already fired when she shut down lunches.) Hanson further states that two of the fired employees were rehired due to seniority rights, and all the others were of-

fered a chance to work at her pizzeria, which they refused.

Hanson, who has previously owned 22 other restaurants in San Francisco and who is a former union member herself (she joined Local 11 in 1952), refutes the workers' claims that they were treated unfairly. She says she paid \$3.75 an hour to waiters and from \$4.00 to \$4.50 to dishwashers, which she believes compares favorably to other restaurants in the area. She doesn't understand complaints about overtime pay, for "they never worked overtime," she says. She also says that back in February she wrote to three different insurance companies for price quotes and then left the matter in the hands of her cashier, who did nothing about it. It wasn't unusual to delegate that kind of responsibility to the cashier, Hanson continues, for "she used to do many things like that for me out of the kindness of her heart."

"I don't want to be forced to do something the whole neighborhood doesn't want me to . . ."

— Luisa

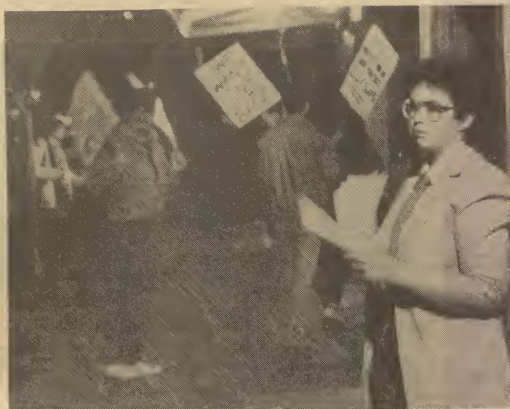
Hanson claims that she is not against the union. "I'm just neutral," she says. But she does see many problems with the union, and she resents being "forced" into signing a union contract. "If they had a separate contract for small businesses, maybe we'd sign; but how can we survive when they ask us to sign the same contract they use for big hotels? Give us a contract we can live with. My business has already dropped 10-15% because of AIDS. That's all I need is the union. I might as well close my doors right now." She continues, "If the community wants me to sign, I will," but at the same time she says, "I don't want to be forced to do something the whole neighborhood doesn't

want me to do."

"The whole neighborhood," in this case, is the Eureka Valley Merchants Association, or at least part of them brought together by President Vaughn Taylor at a meeting at Luisa's on Tuesday, June 21. According to Hanson, Taylor and several of the other area merchants believe that Local 2 is making a concentrated effort to unionize the entire neighborhood, and they are out to keep that from happening. "We don't want the union on Castro," Hanson has been told. "And we're going to stand behind you 100%."

Gary Guthman, the Local 2 representative helping to organize the New York City Deli and Luisa's pickets, believes that the merchants are reacting out of fear and misunderstanding. The conflict at Luisa's, he says, is a "totally spontaneous thing, a direct result of the New York City Deli picket." Local 2 has absolutely no plans "to take over" the Castro, Guthman states. However, when called to an existing situation by the employees, they will respond. "It's not the union imposing ourselves on the business," Guthman explains. "We are responding to the demands of the employees who are fed up with the treatment they are getting. We admit, our union is definitely very aggressive about supporting people who want us. But if they don't, as happened with Church Street Station, we let it go."

Guthman believes that small businessmen and women have little to fear from the union if they will only negotiate. "We don't ram our standard contract down their throats," he says. "We don't want to run them out of business or make things unbearable, especially if they're losing money. We are willing to make compromises. We just want to get the ball rolling. We just want them to negotiate. One thing many employers don't realize is that many of the issues that concern employees are the most



Workers say they are fed up with management tactics. (Photo: Rink)

nonmonetary issues, such as grievance procedure, just cause, discharge and discipline, and seniority rights. The issue is not money," he concludes. "It's recognizing the union."

Guthman is sorry to see the Eureka Valley Merchants Association get involved in this dispute in the manner in which they have, for he believes that "this is not a dispute between Local 2 and the Merchants Association. For them to go to [Hanson's] aid is simply to condone that kind of mistreatment

of employees." Besides, he continues, for the merchants to oppose the union is irrational. "The one thing we have learned is that when the employees want a union, this particular community really supports them. All we have to do is to get those employees on the street talking to people. When the community refuses to cross the picket lines, the employers take a beating and lose thousands of dollars. And who is better off for that?" ■

M. Hippler

Marks Anti-Discrimination Bill Passes Senate

The bill by Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) which would allow San Francisco to forbid its Redevelopment Agency to discriminate because of sexual orientation cleared the latest in its series of hurdles yesterday when it was passed by the State Senate.

"Senate Bill 184 resolves the problem which members of the Board of Supervisors encountered last summer when they wanted to ensure that the redevelopment Agency could not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Because the

Agency is governed by state law, the Board was advised that it had no power to enact a prohibition. State law, although it bans discrimination for many reasons, does not include sexual orientation," Marks stated.

"Governments should not discriminate," Marks declared. "My Senate Bill 184 gives the San Francisco Board of Supervisors the authority to proceed to ensure that discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation does not occur in San Francisco," Marks concluded. ■

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JIM SULLIVAN



- Born: November 17, 1950
- Died: June 15, 1983 (after a long illness NOT connected to AIDS)
- Came to San Francisco in 1974
- In 1976, Jim was pianist for the Eureka Theatre Company production of *Irma La Douce*.
- Since then he has performed as pianist at numerous establishments all over San Francisco, including: The Red Carpet, The Mocambo (for the Arthur Blake Show), *P.S. Restaurant, The Village, Burton's Restaurant, Ivy's Restaurant, and most recently at The Fickle Fox and the Castle Grand. (He also played private parties at the Stanford Court and the Hyatt Regency Hotels.)
- In 1980, he took a three-month cruise aboard the S.S. Sante Mercade to South America. One of the numerous places he visited before his return to San Francisco was the burial site of Eva Peron in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Patricia Unsterman, noted restaurant critic, quoted that he was "a very emotive pianist" in her review of Burton's Restaurant in 1980.
- His repertoire ranged from Gershwin to the classics; also, it included a large selection of song from the 1930's, the 1940's, and the 1950's.
- He was well-known and well-liked by everyone; he will be deeply missed on the local scene.
- The funeral was held on June 18, 1983 at the Neptune Society Columbarium.



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Parade Reminiscences

by Mike Hippler

I'll never forget the first Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade I didn't attend. It was only last year, and I had to work at a restaurant on Castro Street, pushing plates while everyone else partied. My fellow employees and I tried our best to get the boss to close the place for the day. "But Bossman," we pleaded, "this is a national Gay holiday — or ought to be. And as the owner of a Gay restaurant, you owe it to your sense of duty to close. Besides, even if you can ignore what is right and just and fair, you ought to close for practical reasons. Nobody is going to eat brunch on Castro Street that day."

Unfortunately, some lost souls do eat brunch on Castro Street on parade day, and knowing that, our boss was implacable. I don't really blame him — he needed the money. (Don't we all?) But I do blame those people who deliberately skipped the parade and were therefore the direct cause of my having to work. I just don't understand it. Every year there seem to be more and more people who not only skip the parade but also take pride in doing so, as if it were beneath them to attend. "The parade?" one of my friends asked incredulously last year. "You've got to be kidding. I wouldn't be caught dead in that crowd." My friend thinks that the parade is passe, that the time

starting point for the parade. Since I had always regretted missing out on the first few heady years of "Gay Liberation" it was some consolation at least to be at the birthplace of the movement on the tenth anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Fully aware of the day's historical significance, tens of thousands of us crammed into the square, and as the marchers began to file by, my newly-acquired lover and I scanned the crowd from the sidewalk, looking for a group we could join. At the tail-end of the parade the last sign simply proclaimed "Gay and Free." We decided this was the group for us and so fell into place, marching through the Village up Fifth Avenue to the park. It was an in-

mother a heart attack?"

By 1980 we were in San Francisco, and I was introduced to the grand spectacle of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Even the New York parade couldn't compare to this one, the most outrageous event I had ever witnessed, the largest gathering of homosexual beings in the history of the world (discounting the traffic that passed through my lover's bedroom daily when I wasn't there). As my friend Lionel says of his first San Francisco parade, "I was overwhelmed. It was really something. I climbed up on a newstand at the corner where the parade turns up toward City Hall, and there



Dykes on Bikes have become an annual parade favorite. (Photo: Rink)

for marching and demonstrations is over. "Besides, it's so boring," he concludes.

It is anything but. Except for last year, I have been to every Gay Day Parade I could get to in whatever city I've lived ever since I've lived in or anywhere near a city big enough to have a parade, and they have never been anything less than wonderful. My first was the Christopher Street West Parade in Los Angeles in 1977, eight long years after Stonewall. (Leave it to L.A. to name a parade that marches down Santa Monica Blvd after a street in New York.) It wasn't the biggest parade I've ever attended. In fact, at the end of the route, the marchers were funneled into a church parking lot one block long and one block wide that had been transformed into a carnival site for the occasion. One square block to hold us all! And the sad thing is that it almost worked. But what we lacked in numbers compared to San Francisco, we made up in enthusiasm. That was the year I bought my first parade T-shirt, by the way — a hideous thing sporting a bright pink triangle on a big black circle. I still wear it from time to time, just to remind me of L.A., usually when I want to congratulate myself for having the good sense not to live there anymore.

The next year I was living in New York only a block from Sheridan Square, site of the by-then-defunct Stonewall bar and

credible sight — Gay people for as far as the eye could see, covering thirty blocks of one of America's most famous streets. Because I had to be at work late that afternoon, I missed the rally in Central Park, but my first New York parade is no less special to me for that.

In 1979 the same lover (can you believe it?) and I marched up Fifth Avenue again. I remember seeing my friend Stephen walking arm in arm with some gorgeous hunk that I thought I knew until I realized that he looked familiar because I had just seen him star in a porn movie the week before. I remember as well the Anvil's Ruby Rims, a famous drag queen, rollerskating her way down the middle of the avenue screaming, "Make way, boys! Woman coming through!" But most of all I remember the matching white painters' hats emblazoned "Gay '79" that Bob, my lover, made us wear. He also insisted that we push our way through the thousands of people at the rally toward the very front, because that's where the TV cameras were. It paid off. That night on the national news — was it CBS? ABC? NBC? I can't remember — there we were, the two of us in our "Gay '79" hats with our arms draped lovingly around each other, the picture of Gay Pride. "What were you trying to do?" my friend Susan demanded when she called from Atlanta the next day to tell me that her entire family had seen us on TV "Give my grand-

were faggots everywhere! I was so impressed that, although I was just visiting here from Houston, as soon as I returned home I packed up my things and moved out here within five days, just so I could be where things like that happen."

Some of the highlights of the 1980 parade included entertainer Sharon McNight dressed as the Statue of Liberty, drag queen Ambi Sextrous staggering around in stilettos and a necklace made of Kewpie doll heads, some muscled show-off with nothing on but a skimpy bikini and a boa — a real one, the snake variety — draped around his neck, and moi, simply devastating in my open vest (no shirt) and oh-so-fashionable headband — a true faggot at last. This was also the parade which heralded the debut of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and it was my first opportunity to witness such unique assemblages as Dykes on Bikes and Gays Against Brunch. Only in San Francisco, they say, and not without reason.

By the time the 1981 parade rolled around, I had long since lost my enthusiasm for my ex-lover, but not for the parade. In fact, I was especially excited that year for two reasons. First, Armistead Maupin was trying to organize a contingent of past and present Boy Scouts, and I couldn't wait to walk down Market Street wearing my moth-eaten merit badge sash. And second, if that plan fell through

(Continued on next page)

Religious Groups Convene at Grace Cathedral

by Allen White

"At Grace Cathedral, all people are equal in the eyes of God." Thus did Dean David Gillespie set the tone for the third annual "Festival of Prayer." Last Sunday evening hundreds gathered at the Cathedral for a unique event which brings together most of the city's Gay religious groups for a time of prayer.

This year, Bishop William Swing had issued an invitation for the service to be held at Grace Cathedral. The evening began with a prelude of music by Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Chorale. Earlier this year Roman Catholic Archbishop Quinn had revoked their right to sing in a church because the group had the word "Gay" in its name. At

7:30 p.m. a fanfare sounded from the organ, a Scottish bagpiper began to play and the huge bronze doors of the cathedral opened.

Then followed a moving procession following a large pink sign that read, "Thank God I'm Gay." Groups participating included Dignity (Roman Catholic), Lutherans Concerned, The

Parsonage (Episcopal), Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Jewish), Orion (Seventh Day Adventists), Presbyterians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, the Society of Friends (Quakers) as well as Evangelicals Concerned and American Baptists Concerned.

The event was primarily an evening of prayer. Midway through the service Gregory Williams, a coordinator of the Festival, read the names of each person with AIDS who has died in San Francisco.

Armistead Maupin spoke to those gathered in the Cathedral. He acknowledged the suspicion that many Gay men and Lesbians have for the organized church. He noted that Gays have a "healthy respect for drag and interior decoration" in the church. He also zinged the Catholic Church for its new local policy of "gradualism." Maupin defined the position as "a process where you give up sex while they take your money." His remarks were received with applause from many. Others chose to be the critical of his comments.

Organizers of the event praised the staff of Grace Cathedral for their cooperation. The interfaith service closed a 24 hour prayer vigil. Grace Cathedral had been open throughout the preceding day and night for people who wanted to pray or meditate. Each hour had been planned by one of the participating religious groups. The last hours of the vigil were planned by the Metropolitan Community Church and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Dignity's Jim Ehrhart, who with Gregory Williams of Grace Cathedral had coordinated the Festival of Prayer, said, "We hope that by praying together we can foster a change of heart among those who oppress Gay and Lesbian people. I can't think of a better way to begin our celebration of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week."



Grace Cathedral hosts mixed Gay religious groups. (Photo: Rink)



Dejeuner sur l'herbe — another annual parade favorite. (Photo: Rink)

PARADE

(Continued from previous page)

(which it did), one of the Sisters of P.I. had asked me to drive her/him in my convertible, the Jaynemoobile. The Sisters wanted an entire fleet of topless cars and motorcycles to escort their float, which was in the shape of a block-long cathedral, and I was only too willing to participate, for my friend Barbarella and I had plans to fly a pink nightie from Jayne's antenna and hang my telephone number on a giant poster on the door. Unfortunately, at the last minute my Sister friend informed me that they

couldn't use my car after all. "It's the wrong color," she said. "It's yellow, and we can only use the colors of the Vatican — red, white, or black." I was heartbroken and haven't felt the same about the Sisters since.

This year I was supposed to work in the parade, helping to sell beer, and God knows I should do my part for the city's Gay community and its visitors. However, since I have a chance to film the parade, I would much rather be free to preserve the extravaganza for history, and so I begged off the beer sales. I'm sure that my friend who tried to sign me up will never forgive me,

but perhaps someday he'll understand. This is still to me the biggest event of the year, and I just have to be in the thick of things, running around. Some may think it's passe, and others may have had their fill, but for me the parade is the greatest opportunity we have to celebrate our culture, to protest oppression, to spread The Word, or simply to marvel at our numbers. It truly is awe-inspiring. For anyone who is Gay and whose homosexuality is important then there is no place else to be on the third Sunday in June.

M. Hippler



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Margaret M. Heckler Addresses AIDS

(Continued from page 4)

AIDS patient or through blood transfusions.

These findings are crucial. They are also reassuring. Because even while AIDS is frightening for those at risk, we can say with confidence that the overwhelming majority of Americans are not at risk in their day-to-day activities, even in dealing with AIDS victims.

An important indicator of this fact is that in all the years we have treated this disease, not one single doctor or nurse or other health provider has contracted AIDS. If it were an easily-transmitted disease, like flu, we would certainly expect some cases among health workers.

As isolated research results have started coming in and as the number of reported cases has grown, a misapprehension has taken hold. People seem to believe that the disease is growing in a way that is not actually the case. In particular, there is the misapprehension that AIDS may be "breaking out" into the general population.

But the truth is exactly the opposite.

The growing number of reported cases does not show a breakout from the high-risk categories. On the contrary. As more cases are reported and as they are repeatedly and consistently traced to the high-risk groups, we can say with increasing confidence that AIDS does not threaten the population at large as a result of casual personal contact.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT

Two years ago, in June of 1981, The Center For Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, the medical detective agency of the world, first reported cases of AIDS.

Since then, CDC has mobilized its personnel and laboratories to establish a surveillance system for the disease, to identify risk factors for AIDS, and to attempt identification of a possible infectious agent. These early efforts have allowed us to identify high risk groups, to better understand the spread of the syndrome, and to make recommendations to reduce the risk of the spread of AIDS.

At the National Institutes of Health (NIH), action to combat AIDS was immediate. Within a few weeks of CDC's reporting of the disease, the research hospital at NIH began admitting AIDS patients.

Our research has been conducted in two areas: (1) Identification of the agent, (2) and therapy. We have not yet been able to identify the causative agent, although we have been able to rule out certain suspected agents such as nitrate inhalants. It is possible that the agent may be in an unrecognizable form or may occur early on in the disease and then disappear, either of which would render the agent difficult to identify.

Our research into therapy has centered on the use of interferon, a chemical that occurs during the T-cell maturation process that is blocked in AIDS victims. However, to date we have not developed a satisfactory treatment.

Public Health Services researchers, as well as those in the major medical institutions of this country, are engaged in a non-stop pursuit to identify the cause of AIDS so that effective treatment and prevention measures can be developed. Seventy percent of this research is funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

In addition, there has been a

virtual explosion of information about AIDS, thanks in large measure to Public Health Service support. The research community has been mobilized, and we are now beginning to see the results of our initial research investments. Most major medical journals now contain at least one, and frequently several, reports on new AIDS research findings. We have begun to focus and target our laboratory research on a causative agent, and the recent finding of the possible association of human T-cell Leukemia virus with AIDS has opened entire new areas of research.

Because of our steady work,

problem.

At the NIH Research Hospital, I visited with two AIDS patients and their physicians, the physicians and nurses take no unusual precautions in examining or caring for these patients, except those steps necessary to protect the patients from infection. I took no precautions myself.

In my conversations with the patients, I promised them that I would use this forum to correct the misinformation and to squash the vicious rumors that have circulated about AIDS. I feel strongly that the American people must be given timely, accurate information so they will be neither unduly frightened nor overly complacent. I know you share my concern.



(Photo: Rink)

Mayor Dianne Feinstein forwarded a copy of this speech to the Bay Area Reporter on her return from the Conference of Mayors.

She said of the Heckler address:

"I think you will be impressed — as were the nation's mayors — with Secretary Heckler's very substantial commitment to finding a solution to AIDS problems, along with her report of HHS research efforts. As you will see, the cabinet officer reported HHS findings show AIDS is contracted only through intimate contact and offered facts as an 'antidote to fear'.

"After her speech, I met privately with Secretary Heckler in her suite, along with San Francisco's Public Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman and Mayor Ernest Morial of New Orleans.

"I believe our group came away convinced Mrs. Heckler is personally as well as publicly dedicated to solving the AIDS mystery.

"It is most important, in my opinion, that Secretary Heckler's remarks regarding the unreasoned fear increasingly associated with AIDS be broadly disseminated."

we have learned much about the prevention of AIDS. On March 4, 1983, Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Health, outlined steps that can be taken to prevent further spread of this disease.

1. Sexual contact should be avoided with persons known or suspected of having AIDS.

2. Member of groups at increased risk for AIDS should refrain from donating plasma and/or blood products.

3. Physicians should adhere strictly to medical indications for blood transfusions, and autologous blood transfusions are encouraged.

SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ROLE

For several weeks I have been in continuous briefings on AIDS: Earlier at the CDC in Atlanta; most recently at the National Institutes of Health. Last week I spent a day with scientists from CDC and NIH and the other PHS agencies involved in AIDS work. I can assure you that these are superb and dedicated scientists who are committed to solving the

Recently, reports have alleged that AIDS can spread through routine social contact. As Mayor Koch said: "Rumors spread easier than AIDS."

I urge you to do everything you can to be sure information reaches all segments of our cities' populations. It is our responsibility to guarantee that the victims of AIDS do not suffer from unreasonable and unrealistic fear among the public. Their personal suffering is already great.

We know that AIDS has been especially the problem of a few large cities. But it concerns all of us. It has struck in Nashville as well as Miami. In San Diego and St. Louis as well as San Francisco. Statistically we can expect AIDS to claim victims in virtually every city in the United States.

I want to take this opportunity to heartily compliment many of you who have risen so well to this challenge.

You have provided services — from clinics and screening services — to housing and even hospice services.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Most of all, you have recognized — as we have at HHS — the importance and the urgency of this problem. This partnership in compassion and caring represents government at its best.

At the federal level, our Public Health Service is currently helping the cities directly. A Public Health advisor on AIDS has been working in New York City for over a year. Advisors will also be assigned to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Miami.

In several large cities, CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service physicians previously assigned to a wide variety of public health matters are now working full-time on AIDS. New York state, which has the highest number of AIDS cases in the country, has three of these physicians; Los Angeles also has this special assistance.

We also are supporting or working on cooperative agreements on AIDS with city health departments or other city organizations. PHS has an agreement with the New York City Health Department and is working on agreements with San Francisco. Two other agreements concern the AIDS incidence in Haitians. Most AIDS cases among Haitians in the United States are reported in either Miami or New York. In Miami a Creole-speaking public health advisor will work on an AIDS study with the University of Miami. A State University of New York study will focus on AIDS in Haitians. Both these studies will begin this summer.

We intend to direct our efforts toward every possible avenue. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new heat treatment to reduce infectious agents in the blood factor required by Hemophilia sufferers. We believe that this new process will provide hemophiliacs with protection against AIDS.

We have enabled AIDS victims to become eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

As Secretary of Health and Human resources, I have also ordered the establishment of a new AIDS Information Hotline. This will be a central source for AIDS information that will help us disseminate accurate, timely information to the public. I will announce the details for this service as soon as the telephone lines are installed.

In addition, the Public Health Service has established an AIDS Information Bulletin, up-

dated every two weeks, which provides the latest scientific information on AIDS. The Bulletin will be available to the public, to the appropriate medical personnel, and to state and local health officials across the country.

Any reference to sharing information would not be complete without acknowledging the excellent work done by Gay networks around the nation. They have responded to the crisis by offering comprehensive support to AIDS victims and by working to inform the Gay communities of the risks of AIDS and how to minimize them. I know many of you in this audience have worked extensively with these groups, and I applaud their compassion.

As for my department, I can assure you that we intend to aggressively pursue our efforts to discover the cause, the most effective treatment, and the prevention of AIDS.

This year, The Department of Health and Human Services will spend \$14.5 million on AIDS. The National Institutes of Health will spend \$10 million on direct AIDS research. In addition, the President has asked the congress to grant me broad authority to transfer \$12 million into additional AIDS research, which will bring total spending to \$26.5 million for this year. This amount far exceeds the amount we spent on toxic shock syndrome and legionnaires disease combined over an eight year period.

Through our grants, we have supported projects that preserve the integrity of the scientific research process. The process relies on projects to yield accurate medical and scientific data. No cause would be served by devoting money to hastily conceived research that might yield inaccurate data. This is particularly critical in a disease as new and puzzling as AIDS.

On May 1st, we awarded six new research grants totalling more than \$2 million for the first year to medical centers around the country: Harvard University, Cornell Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, the University of California at San Francisco, Yeshiva University in New York, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Today, I am very pleased to announce that the National Cancer Institute has awarded two new grants for AIDS research, effective June 1st, to two distinguished scientists:

• Dr. Bijan Safai, of

Tede Matthews, who with his lover, Robby Montes, is a member of GALA, related that while Gay Latinos have achieved a measure of respect in the Latino community, "We have not received the same level of respect from the white Gay community, and for this respect to be truly sincere, white Gays have to understand Latino culture.

By marching with the El Salvador contingent, GALA is, according to Matthews, acting in accordance with its primary role of working within the Latino community.

Black Lesbians and Gays are not only organizing and asserting themselves with the community, but also are going back to their roots in the process.

Ken Coleman, a member of the recently-formed Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays, said that Black Gays "are coming together because they have experienced firsthand the racism and oppression in the Gay community and are coming back to their own culture and to each other."

Coleman concluded, "Ultimately, Black Gay people have seen that white Gay cult and are

Memorail Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, a 3-year grant with \$250,000 first year cost; and

• Dr. Fred Valentine, of New York University, a 3-year grant with \$166,822 first year cost.

These and other worthwhile research endeavors will help to further our knowledge about AIDS in the next two years.

We have been working with you, and we will continue to work with you, and with the medical profession, and the Gay communities around the country. AIDS will continue to be the number one health priority of my Department until we have discovered the cause and developed the cure.

I congratulate you on forming the Conference Task Force on AIDS, which is now beginning its work, and I pledge my full cooperation.

Let us keep the vital information flowing. Be sure that all cases of AIDS are being promptly reported to the Center for Disease Control. Be sure that the real facts about AIDS are reaching the public. Both kinds of information are needed as we carry out the attack on this disease.

Let us also reach out to the total community. The Gay community has been affected by the AIDS epidemic in an unprecedented way. We should make special efforts to understand the needs and concerns of all the affected groups. They should be included in planning and executing AIDS programs. We should enable them to make the maximum constructive contribution as we care for victims.

Finally, it is important that people be aware of the prudent steps that will prevent the spread of AIDS.

I can report to you that the scientific effort is underway non-stop. The commitment and the sense of urgency are impressive. In the presence of a grave medical mystery, there is a sense of resolve — and, always, a sense of hope. We are doing all that is humanly possible to stop this killer.

"My Department will continue to work with you, with the medical profession, and with the victims in that spirit. This is not a time for unreasoning fear and isolation. Rather, in the presence of a cruel threat, it is time to close ranks — to care for those who are stricken; to reassure the public; and to bend every effort, together, to vanquish this disease."

deprogramming themselves."

BABLAG, which was founded last December, will not march in the Parade, but will have a booth at the Celebration in Civic Center, which will also be staffed by members of Brother to Brother.

Underlying the emergence of a new assertiveness by Gay and Lesbian People of Color has been a longstanding lack of sensitivity to People of Color by the rest of the Lesbian/Gay community.

At last Sunday's inaugural East Bay Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade in Berkeley, Thurman, East Bay representative to the International Association of Black and White Men Together, told celebrants that "prejudice is, as Mr. Webster says, without fact. It is totally on a personal level; one's own naive opinion."

"I find it difficult to believe that such prejudice exists in what we all are — the newest minority of minorities . . ."

He concluded his speech with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must learn to live together as brothers, or perish together as fools."

D. B. Sanders

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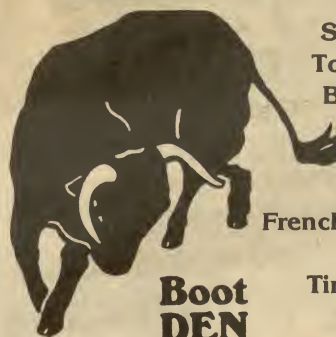
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Parade Minorities

(Continued from page 14)

reservations and are in the Bay Area only part-time. "So we are break-down stereotypes in both the Gay and Indian communities."

Erna Pahe, GAI chairperson, told the B.A.R. that "it is hard for Indian people to be assertive," but that now "we are starting to document our grievances."

Burns bristles at discriminatory practices against Indians at Gay businesses. "Being carded at a bar or a bathhouse is ridiculous; ID checks are a real pain," he said, noting that most Gay establishments will not honor reservation cards — a real problem for Gay Indians who live out-of-state. "It infuriates me that a group of Gay Indians who walk into a Gay bar are treated so tackily."

For this year's Parade, GAI will, according to Pahe, have Indian Elders lead its contingent "as a sign of Indian solidarity" and that GAI "will stress the unity of all People of Color" at the Parade.

For Gay Latinos and Lesbian Latinas, cultural conflicts may be at the root of discrimination against them by the community.

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Talking To The Tourists

What Do They Think Of Gay S.F.?

by Mike Hippler

It sounded like a good idea when a friend first suggested it to me. "Just go on down to the Wharf," he said, "and ask the tourists what they think of Gay life in San Francisco. Do they know about us? Have they met any of us? What do they think of this city Gay-wise?"

Gay-wise? It's not in the dictionary. But I knew what he meant. And it sounded like a good idea. Trouble was, how in the world would I do such a thing? How would I go about approaching straight tourists and asking them about homosexuality without being thought forward at best and perverse at worst? Travellers to San Francisco do expect the unexpected, it's true, but most of them would rather observe than participate in all the craziness. They enjoy the mimes, the dancers, the street artists, and the jugglers, but they form wide circles around them and seek safety in the anonymity of the crowd. They laugh, they take pictures, they drop coins in hats and boxes, but basically, they keep to themselves. They don't want to be disturbed. I had to figure out a way to break through that reserve.

I decided on a plan of attack. First I chose a non-threatening outfit, my standard reporter's garb (which also doubles as my Annie Hall outfit) — khaki pants, white shirt, and brown vest. I also considered a Bogart hat with a press card made of construction paper stuck in the brim, but that looked a little silly, even if it did fit in with the atmosphere of the Wharf, I did want to be taken seriously, after all. Next, after great thought, I chose and rehearsed the following lines:

"Hi, how are you?" (Nice opening, huh?)

"Are you from San Francisco?"

"Where are you from?"

"Oh, that's a nice city. I'm a writer for the *Bay Area Reporter*, one of the city's newspapers, and I'm doing an article on what tourists think about San Francisco and certain aspects of the city in particular. Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?"

My first question was the, "What have you seen since you've been here?" I decided to warm up to my subject as gently and as gradually as possible. Finally, after talking about the Wharf, Chinatown, Coit Tower, and Golden Gate Park ad infinitum, I'd ask, "Have you been to Castro Street yet?" and, if that answer was no, "Have you ever heard of Castro Street?" If



Oriental visitors pose with Alcatraz in the background. (Photo: Rink)

they hadn't, I'd explain that it is the city's major Gay neighborhood, and then I'd ask in succession:

"Are you aware that there are lots of Gay people in San Francisco?"

"Why do you think they come here?"

"Are there Gay people in your hometown?"

"Do you know any personally?"

And finally: "How do you feel about homosexuality? Does it bother you? Do you care?"

I decided not to identify the B.A.R. as a Gay paper or myself as a Gay person until the end, if then. Call me closeted if you will, but it didn't seem like the best way to put people at ease or to get non-prejudiced answers.

It seemed like a good plan. Simple, basic. What could go wrong? So, on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon, I drove to the Wharf and wandered out to the end of Pier 39, looking for victims. Unfortunately, although I saw lots of likely candidates, once I found myself forced to act I couldn't work up the nerve. How to begin accosting people? And so I stood at the end of the pier, watching the sailboats go by and thinking how surprised and disappointed my mother

(May she rest in peace) made me feel so guilty that I finally spurred myself to action. Screwing my courage to the sticking point, I walked up to the least hostile-looking people I saw, three women and one man in their mid-twenties, and said, "Hi. How are you?"

They were fine. They were from Southern California and had seen "typical tourist things" — Ghirardelli Square, the Cannery, Pier 39. No, they hadn't been to or heard of Castro Street, but when I told them about it, one woman replied that she had heard about Polk Street. Yes, they knew of San Francisco's reputation of a Gay town. Why do Gay people come here? To be with other Gay people, they supposed. Yes, there are Gays back home in Southern California. (I should hope so.) One woman knew "a few" of them. The others didn't know any. How do they feel about it? Two didn't care one way or the other. The other two replied, "I don't like it," and "It's a turn-off."

"Thank you very much," I replied, and I fled. I was nervous. They, I think, were uncomfortable. The next people I talked to, a man from Sacramento and his cousin from Fort Worth (both in their thirties), weren't so bad, however, and

(Continued on next page)



San Francisco's Pier 39 is a busy tourist attraction. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

with each person or group of people I talked, it got easier and easier to broach the "forbidden" subject. Soon I was accosting all and sundry — everyone except people with kids. Somehow, that didn't feel right. Perhaps I still have this lingering, antiquated image in my mind of Gays as child molesters, and I felt defensive. I prefer to think, though, that I was just being practical. People with kids are less likely to be open about subjects like



Pier 39 pedicycle (Photo: Rink)

homosexuality when their kids are around. They are also infinitely more difficult to interview, as the kids are always dragging them somewhere, asking them to buy something, or spilling ice cream on their shoes.

In all I talked to 35 people — people of all ages (18 or older), races, and nationalities. Everyone I approached agreed to talk to me. Indeed, some were eager to talk, and when they discovered the jist of the article, none were hostile (although a few were uncomfortable). Believe it or not, I had a relatively good time, considering that every other faggot in town was out lying in the sun while I talked to tourists on the Wharf. And I learned some surprising things. The results? Listen to this (We'll skip the "What have you seen?" part. Either you've already seen it or you wouldn't want to, unless you're a fan of souvenir shops, penny arcades, and wax museums....)

Only two of the 35 people I talked to had been to Castro Street, and that was by mistake. They had taken a wrong turn somewhere. Two others, a black couple from Cincinnati, thought they might have been there but weren't sure. "I think we may have stumbled on it last night," said the woman. "I told my husband, 'Look, there are so many men here!'" None had taken the bus tour to Twin Peaks which passes through the Castro neighborhood.

Very few of the people I talked to — only 20% — had ever even heard of Castro Street. Most hadn't. One of the women from Southern California said, "I knew about Polk Street, but not Castro." Every single one of these people, however, had heard of San Francisco's reputation as a Gay haven. Most have known about the Gay scene here for some time, either through their TV's and newspapers or through "common knowledge," but few only recently have been enlightened. One group of middle-aged Australians waiting for the Alcatraz ferry told me that they didn't know about Gays in San Francisco until their tour guide mentioned it. "Oh? What did he say?" I asked. "He said it was a very tolerant city," they replied. "There aren't so many here as in Berkeley, though," an elderly woman from

Long Island assured me while watching a group of Black dancers. "That's the real center for Gays."

Why do the tourist think there are so many Gay people here? Nearly every single person gave me one or both of the following reasons — because there are so many others here ("They want to be with their own kind.") and because San Francisco is a more tolerant city ("They are accepted here."). Several people mentioned "a sense of community." Others spoke about "freedom,"

class at school, and the Houston couple have "several Gay friends." None of the tourists had met Gay people in San Francisco, however. Only four, the couple from Cincinnati and the 19-year-old student from Boston and his friend, had even seen people they thought might be Gay. "I was passing a hotel called the Casa Loma," the Boston student related, "and some guy called out the window to me." "Did he try to pick you up?" I asked. "No," he replied smiling, "but it would be interesting to see what would have happened if he had tried." A white-haired woman from Miami, on the same bus tour as the woman from Long Island, didn't have the same kind of experience, but she did have a Gay encounter. "I saw a Gay newspaper," she confessed, "but I didn't like it." When I asked her what she read, she shook her head from side to side and replied, "Oh, I couldn't tell you. Those ads! Awful!"

Surprisingly, only six of the people I interviewed expressed disapproval of homosexuality. One was a 21-year-old sailor off the U.S.S. Berkeley who spent the entire time I was talking to him cruising women as obviously as possible. (A definite pre-queen, I thought.) Another was an Australian who said, "I don't like it. I think it's wrong. It shouldn't be publicized or bragged about." Everyone else, however, expressed variations of the same sentiment: "It doesn't bother us. It's their way of life." Many qualified that statement by adding "as long as they mind their own business," "as long as they don't bother me," or "as long as they don't make a spectacle of themselves," indicating that they probably don't admire or respect Gay people very much, but they don't really care one way or the other. Fortunately, there were others who concluded, "They're just people, no different from anybody else."

For someone who spends 95% of his time confined to the Gay areas of San Fran-

"a relaxed attitude," and "open-mindedness."

Almost 70% of the tourists admitted that there were plenty of Gay people back home, but most pointed out that it wasn't exactly the same thing at home as it is here. As one couple from Omaha said, "Oh sure we have them, but they're not really comfortable there." A 19-year-old female student from Tacoma acknowledged, "There are Gay people everywhere, but here it's accepted. Back home in Tacoma if two people of the same sex walked hand in hand, people

"They're just people, no different from anybody else."

would freak out." Another 19-year-old student, this one a male (and what a male!) from Boston, didn't believe that there were necessarily any more Gay people here than anywhere else. It's just that it's talked about more here, and it's more open as well, a sentiment that was echoed almost word for word by a married couple from Seattle. A few tourists, incidentally, were particularly knowledgeable about the Gay communities in their own hometowns. One couple from Houston told me about the Montrose section of that city. Another from Salinas discussed AIDS cases in their town.

Eleven of the 35 specified that they knew Gay people personally or had Gay friends. The elderly woman from Long Island, who was on a bus tour of California, confided, "I have some very dear friends that are homos. Most are very talented, well-mannered, lovely people." The student from Tacoma had met Gay people through her human sexuality

cisco, it was an enlightening experience to spend a day at the Wharf. I needn't have been so nervous, after all. Straight people really aren't all that bad. Most of them don't hate us — they don't, they don't — and some can be quite friendly. The boys from Boston and the girls from Tacoma (the student had a sister) were wonderful. We had long heart-to-hearts, and I eventually told them not only that I am Gay but also all about Gay life in the city (a La Hippler). I even tried to set the two groups up, and when that fell through, I told them where to find the straight bars in the city (as if I know). Four hours of the Wharf can get old real quick, though, so when the breeze from the Bay picked up, I returned home, a wiser man. I hung up my reporter's outfit, put away the toy cable car and the day-glo chopsticks I just couldn't resist, and began to write.

"It sounded like a good idea," I began...

M. Hippler

Gay & Lesbian Veterans Will March

At the '83 Freedom Day Parade, June 26, there will be a contingent of Gay and Lesbian military veterans of all eras.

Veterans are as yet an unidentified segment of the Gay and Lesbian community.

Contingents are asked to assemble at 9 AM on Sunday the

26th. Parade officials will be stationed at Market and Spear Streets that morning and will be able to direct to the assembly place for the Gay & Lesbian contingent; or call (415) 626-0502 or (415) 863-9872 after June 15th for the assembly point or for more information. ■

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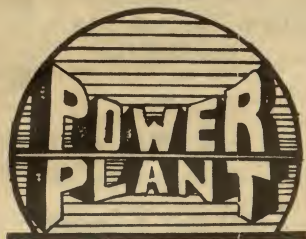
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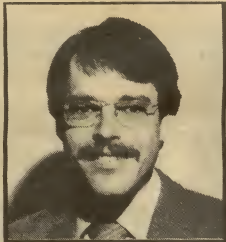
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M&MG/FLAC/CB '83
(A Coded Nose?)

A nervous and tense Mr. Cha Cha proved once again that her magic wand has powers beyond one's wildest imagination! The duo-function a few weeks ago would have caused lesser men to throw up their hands and quit before starting...but not Cha Cha!

The unique event had several strikes against it to begin with. First, just the fact that Mr. and Miss Gay/Foxy Lady Alameda County was combined with Closet Ball '83 is enough to make one wonder about the impossibility of the task. Cha Cha managed to pull it off with a minimum of complications.

Second, two sets of MCs (Pat Montclair & Cha Cha, Closet Ball; Margo Moore and Carlos, M&MG/FLAC) could have been cause for upstaging and "two-upmanship." Cha Cha's choices, however, proved otherwise. All four added immensely to the presentation.

Third, one panel of judges (Frumpy, Ron Love, Don Squire, Lady Johnny, Tuesday [Ollie's], Trashy Trisha, and Guy [Hayward Raw RaHS] with two sets of ballots (each function having its own set of criteria) was a horrendous undertaking. Again, Cha Cha's selections accentuated how such diverse people can perform as a unit.

Last, and certainly not least, a lack of contestants (actually down-to-the-wire, last-minute, day-of-the-event type) surely would take anyone aback and wonder "What the Hell is going on?" Not Cha Cha! Somehow he managed to glean enough bodies to prevent the event from becoming one-person-per-category contest!

It was a good crowd at Ollie's Radcliff Hall, but it should have been SRO! A tip of Nez' nose to Ollie for donating the room. I did sense, however, a feigned en-

thusiasm of competition, - mainly during the Mr. Gay portion. There was not the usual question of "why one was running," there wasn't any avowing to organize and host x-number of functions during the reign. There was no sound backstage, making timing a real bummer. And, there's no truth to the rumor that Big Chuck threatened anyone who chose to run against Little Mother!

Entertainment was provided by Nova, Sandee, Pat Montclair, Lady Cathy, Oakland Pom Pons, and Hayward Raw RaHS. Off-stage lighting, or lack thereof, hindered the audience's viewing.

The two candidates for Miss Gay were Randy and Donnie, with Randy the winner. The three candidates for Mr. Gay were Jim Weatherston, Noel Gracie, and Little John, with Little John the winner. Little Mother was the only contestant for Foxy Lady. Kudos to the judges who left the floor enmass while L.M. was reading page 14 of a 27 page love poem!

The two contestants for Closet Ball were Andy (Lake Lounge) and Patrick (Lady Cathy's lover), with Andy (Veronica) the winner. Andy's creator was Lady April, and Pat's creator was Lady Cathy.

Income from entrance fees and ticket sales totaled \$460. Expenses totaled \$215, but with Randy Clough absorbing expenses of \$105, a total of \$350 went to the Pom Pons and Float Committee.

Some of the highlights were: Lady Cathy emulating Margo, by pouring a Calso over her head while performing; Mama Chuckles' exposing of Little John's genitalia in full view of the audience; Cheryl's live performance during the dance break.

It's too bad that last year's Miss Gay, Lady Chris, was a no-show. Has she been seen

anywhere during her reign?

MADEMOISELLE MAZUMA
(A Priced Nose?)

At the Miss \$1.98 Beauty Pageant, Carlos did his damndest, but once again interest from the "community" seemed to be lagging...three contestants were the sum total of entrants at the Lake Lounge, June 11. Along with the interest, also missing were: adequate lighting for the contestants and entertainers, a microphone for the MCs, advertised appearances by Joanne Caron and Roger (Stallion), a larger crowd, and most of all, enthusiasm! Mama Chuckles' "Everybody's a winner raffle" received too much flack about the \$50 ticket price, so that idea was dropped for the event. Miss Gay World Margo Moore and Carlos did the best they could with what they had to work with.

The three contestants were: June Jaundice (Lady April), Felicia Fuckless (Ed), and Dimples Dumpshit (Marty); Dimples was the winner by popular demand.

Last year, Mama Chuckles managed to gather over \$1000 at this event. This year, only \$223.40 was coughed up. And, after all expenses and deductions, only about \$78 went into the Float's coffers. An anonymous donation of \$100 went directly to the Pom Pons.

Entertainment by the Pom Pons and Margo helped to add some bit of life to this event!

SANS TRAVOISE!
(A Splintered Nose?)

A bit more spirited enthusiasm, and a larger assemblage, rooted for the four contestants at the Bench & Bar's Lumberjack #2 fundraiser the following afternoon.

Competition included: "log" sawing (one sharp and two dull saws!), attire, "timber" calling, log pushing, and arm wrestling. Contestants Margaret, Terry, Randy (Cha Cha), and P.G. Luigi (Patrick) took on each category with vim, vigor, — and encouragement from the audience. The judges' decision resulted in Randy being 1st runner-up, and Patrick as Mr. Lumberjack 1983!

Raffles and auctions contributed \$358.50 (a far cry from last year's \$2000!) which will go to the Float and Pom Pons.

★ ★ ★

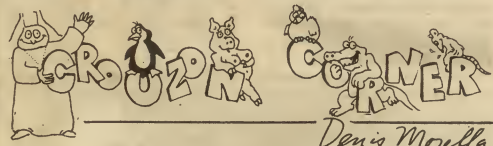
An estimated 5000 were on hand to celebrate Ed Paulson's umpteenth birthday party. It was held on two subsequent days at Big Mama's and the In-between. It was a great tribute to a hard worker.

Game 12 of the East Bay Pool Tournament is as follows: June 27 — White Horse at Driftwood, Big Mama's at Ollie's, Turf at Revol, and Inbetween at Lake Lounge. All games are Monday at 7:30 PM. Apologies also, to Lady Johnnie for inadvertently omitting her name from the list of credits at Lady Cathy's "An Evening Off Broadway" performed in San Francisco.

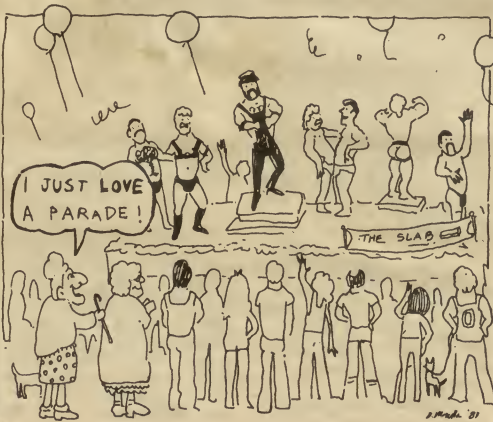
★ ★ ★

This Sunday is the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Hope you're all out there rooting for OAKLAND!

Today is what happened to yesterday! Smile at that one! Love, Nez



Denis Morella
©83



First Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade in Berkeley

A New Parade Committee Creates Regional Identity for Gays in Berkeley

by Bernard Spunberg

Doesn't matter if it's five people or five thousand. Show me Gay people marching down any street carrying a sign emblazoned with the words GAY PRIDE and I begin to laugh and cry and cannot long remain on the sidelines. The East Bay Lesbian/Gay community held their First Annual Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Celebration on Sunday, June 19. When I saw that precious handful of Dykes on Bikes turn the corner of Telegraph and Bancroft and had my usual reaction, my first thought was, "But if I'm in it, I won't be able to see it well enough to report it." But when I looked again and saw that the entire Parade was but one and a half blocks long, I knew that I could participate and not miss too much.



Despite the abundance of political groups, many people managed to simply get down and groove with music and sun, and the police officers looked aside at partial nudity. (Photo: Rink)

Besides the Dykes on Bikes, the marchers included the Lesbian Separatists, Gay American Indians, the Pacific Center, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, Black and White Men Together, the Peace and Freedom Party, and those drum-beating treasures, Sistah Boom, who appeared to include among their number on this occasion a lone Bruddah.

Center (I gave them a dollar for a card certifying that I am a genuine homosexual — you never know when proof may be required); Safe Place, Oakland's battered women's shelter; the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee; All-American Smile, Jews Against the U.S./Israeli Invasion of Lebanon; the East Bay Gay

The North American Man/Boy Love Association, for which I feel both dread and fascination, was also represented, so I stopped to chat with Robert Turner, NAMBLA's spokesman. He told me that NAMBLA "has more support every year as our case is better understood by the rest of the Gay community. I think it's real important for people to read up on the subject if they don't know much about it, because the media have distorted our message. Robert Turner made me wish I were twelve again. Oh, well.

A group for which my fascination is unmixed, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, was represented by Helena Carlson and Ann Dawson. Their exchange with me was a rare and potent blend of the intellectual and the instinctive. Two powerful women.

By this time, the crowd had swelled tremendously, so I approached Berkeley Police Department Reserve Officer T. Harris, Badge #619, for an ex-



Off to the side: Dyke Separatists, and their co-travelers, Louise S/M Dykes formed a secessionist group at the Berkeley Gay Pride Celebration. (Photo: Rink)

A short stroll down one lane of Bancroft — stopping for red lights, of course — ended at the Celebration site, Provo Park, which faces Berkeley City Hall much as San Francisco City Hall faces Civic Center. There, however, the resemblance ends, for the entire central space of Provo Park is carpeted with lush, soft, green grass for the sun worshippers to lie on, while the perimeter offers blessed shade in which those who delight in the Great Indoors, as I do, can take refuge.

Were there speakers? Naturally. They included John George, Linci Comy, Wilson Riles, Jr., Veronica Fukson, Debbie Gregg, Gwen Avery, Reverend Weatherly, David Keleel, Merle Woo, Evelyn Hock, and Tanyan Korman. Entertainers included Ellen Robinson, John Sugar, Lea DeLaria, and Jason Serinas.

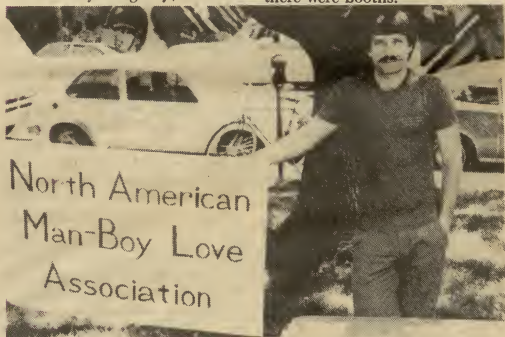
Were there booths? Well, there was the Livermore Action Group; the Gay Men's Health Collective; the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club; East Bay Dignity; Pacific

Men's Network; the Coalition to Stop Electroshock; the New Movement in Solidarity with the Puerto Rican and Mexican Revolutions; Women Against Imperialism; Feminists for Animal Rights; the Merle Woo Defense Fund; Gay American Indians; A Woman's Place Bookshop; the John Brown Anti-Clan Committee, Genesis Gay Men's Support Groups; the Berkeley Women's Health Collective; Dyke Separatists; Louise S/M Dykes; and the Gay and Lesbian Student Union. Yes, there were booths.

perenced eye's estimate, "800." Impossible! I was sure it was at least 1200. But Officer Harris more than redeemed himself by explaining, "Berkeley has been pretty liberal, a lot more than other cities about this kind of thing. I'm in favor of it. I think you should let people do what they want so long as they don't hurt themselves or bother anybody else." I watched Officer Harris in action, too, and a little innocent nudity does not "bother" him.

I fell in love with Vivian Jones on sight. Active in MCC, Vivian is an absolutely charming Black dyke (I asked permission) from whom I bought a beer. She expressed sentiments about the future of the Parade and Celebration that were echoed by several of the politicians I spoke to. "I think the whole thing is going to get bigger. Next year, we want every small organization to send a representative to the Celebration Committee."

There is a political story behind the creation of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade and Celebration. Previous years' observances have consisted solely of a rally, coordinated by Pacific Center, at Ho Chi Minh



The young boys and older men were nowhere in sight, but the information was dispensed at the NAMBLA booth in Berkeley. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued on next page)

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San Jose Gay Pride Celebration

A Happy Party Unites A Cross-Section of the City

by Tom Rogers

Up to 3500 people and a whole slew of booths were crowded onto St. James Park in downtown San Jose last Sunday and "got down" in a celebration of their Gayness. Great fat columns of balloons, vibrantly colored and arranged in the same patterns as the Gay Freedom Day Flag, swayed through the trees, buoyed by the hot dance music. People driving past the park could be left with no doubt that there was a party going on there.

A great list of entertainers performed for the crowd. The original members of the Berkeley Women's Music Collective, Nancy Vogl and Suzanne Shanbaum, provided a mellow beginning with their guitar and vocal stylings. They started an afternoon that raised the level of San Jose's annual Rally to community spirit. Everyone was there, and everyone had a great time.

I even saw Sal Acardi, Watergarden GM, at the Main Street/Boot Rack booth where Jack Britton and staff were selling raffle tickets for a 10-speed bike to benefit the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

When he found me taking pictures of the Watergarden booth during the afternoon of festivities, Mr. Acardi was pointed: "no walk-out this year."

That's amore.

David Kelsey and his Pure

Trash group kicked the energy level to a nice high with their dixielandish productions — a treat of some of their best. (Catch them Sundays at the New Bell in San Francisco). They had several couples weaving their best sleaze on the dance floor.

The Weather Girls (previously billed as "Two Tons of Fun"), although they were an hour later than announced, arrived in a big Cadillac limo and in a flash of colorful lame and bright smiles, had the audience in their hands before they hit the microphones.

When they did hit the microphones, they jammed the gears of the party into frenzied overdrive and left it there.

As promised by the Rally Committee, this year's Rally was a big party, well organized, well publicized, well-run and well done all the way around. Principal organizers, Roger Lee and Doug Winslow (both professional political consultants) and John Snell, Desperados owner, all worked hard and deserve credit for the best-attended Rally San Jose has ever seen. (They listed a number of contributors



San Jose Gay Pride Day Celebration organizers (l. to r.) Doug Winslow, Roger Lee, and John Snell.

who also deserve credit).

Pronouncing San Jose to be "out of the closet," Roger Lee introduced the afternoon's only speaker. Paul Castro, an AIDS victim, described some of his experiences — mainly the problems of dealing with ignorant attitudes about AIDS. His straightforward presentation brought the audience to its feet in sympathy and support for his anger at the segregating results

of ignorant people discovering his illness. They were also on their feet to support hope of a cure.

The best part of the Rally, though, was the cross-section of crowd from all over the city. What the bars and restaurants may have lost in business due to Rally attendance, the community gained ten-fold in spirit.

SAN JOSE: FROM THE ROSEGARDEN

Return to San Jose — And News

TOM ROGERS

I got to see a lot of friends when I attended the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration last Sunday.

But geez, go out of town for awhile and suddenly everybody decides to rearrange the furniture.

I can't imagine the west side of the Rosegarden being without Toyon. It closed with a bash last Saturday night. I think somebody made a terrible mistake — the landlord by report. Empress Darlene (who was head bartender there) said that "it'll be back — though somewhere else."

Darlene also told me that plans for the Coronation weekend (July 8-10) are set and all systems go.

Titled *A Little Bit Country*, 1983 the event looks like it'll be great, western-style fun. An awards night will be held Friday starting with a buffet at 7 PM at

the Casa de Ave Maria (1071 Alviso Road, in Santa Clara). The doors open 6 PM for the Coronation itself at the I.A.M. Hall (655 Vaqueros Ave. in Sunnyvale). This is all to be followed by a victory brunch, noon Sunday at Culinary Experience. (And who moved the patio cover off the patio there? "Lupe," said Mark Dalton, who with his lover Richard Kendall, are the two remaining partners of that restaurant/catering business.)

Tickets to the Coronation events are available by mail order from Casa Prez Richard Kendall, c/o Casa de San Jose Inc., Post Office Box 8287, San Jose, 95155, or at the door. Mail order sales must be in by July 2, with payment in the form of cashiers check or money order made out to Casa de San Jose, Inc. Awards night \$5, Coronation \$15 (\$18 at the door) and \$5 for brunch.



Political clubs like the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club were present with strength and visibility. (Photo: Rink)

Berkeley Parade

(Continued from previous page)

Park, while this year's Parade and Celebration were the product of the brand new Parade and Celebration Committee, consisting of Karen Phillips, Steven Poindexter, Diane Kuchins, Robin Kirby, and Bob Kegeles. The more I knew about the shift of authority from Pacific Center to the Committee, the more I realized I didn't know, so I think I'll keep my toes out of those still waters. Some things, however, are abundantly clear: Intelligence has largely made up for lack of experience, and serious problems have been averted. Unexpectedly, candid conversation further convinced me that the relationships among those who carry the heaviest responsibility and authority are in good working order.

Best of all, these central individuals share several fundamental values. Bob Kegeles of the Parade and Celebration Committee said it very well: "Basically, I wanted us to be seen. The rally in previous years has been nowhere near the downtown area, and the only people who saw us were at the rally. I've enjoyed it every year, but it's been totally for us, and I wanted to make a public statement for the rest of the world.

"Another reason why I wanted to do this day was to establish an identity that is not dependent on San Francisco. We have our own regional identity, and we want to cultivate it and celebrate it.

"I could not march; I had to be at Provo Park. I had no idea how many people would be in the Parade. But when I saw that crowd come around the corner, my heart lifted and I knew that the Lesbian/Gay Pride March in the East Bay was born."

★ ★ ★

With approximately 125 people marching, this Parade was not exactly mammoth. I was initially surprised and disappointed, but then I realized that this was the first Lesbian/Gay Pride event I'd ever attended that was on a human scale. I thought of all my friends who can't bear the push and shove of a quarter-million celebrants in San Francisco and thought, "Yes, this is the way I think Gay Freedom Day ought to be in Anytown, U.S.A."

But Berkeley is not Anytown, and I predict that this First Annual Lesbian/Gay Parade and Celebration will soon be recalled nostalgically as an idyllic, euphoric occasion that can never be recreated.

B. Spunberg

Remarkable Discovery

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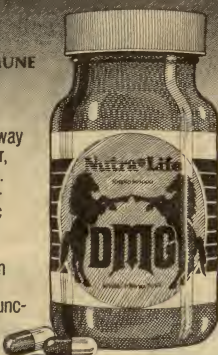
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Pipes, T.V. Physician and Sports Medicine, 7 (11) 17-18 (1979), and Med. and Sci. in Sports and Exercise 12:98 (1980).



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Levine, Steve, et al., Equine Practice, Vol. 4, No. 3, March 1982

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Graber, C.D., et al., Journal of Infectious Diseases, 143 (1) 101-105 (1981).

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Meduski, Prof. J.W., et al., Abstract of Presentation given at 1982 Pacific Coast Biochemical Conference, July 7-9, 1980 at the University of California, San Diego.

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Representatives from two national organizations addressed the June 12 meeting off the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. Tanyan Corman, Western Regional Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, and Jose Gomez, board member of the National Gay Task Force, spoke about what is happening, and what needs to happen, at the federal level in respect to AIDS funding.

Corman mentioned G.R.N.'s AIDS Project and their efforts to help arrange passage of bills for research funding, patient health care benefits, and research expediting. Chief among these are the Waxman and Cranston bills, HR 2713 and S 1226, which call for the creation of a \$30 million emergency fund to be used by agencies of the Dept. of Health & Human Services to combat "public health emergencies"; the Boxer bills, HR 2762 and HR 2763, which call for \$10

million and \$20 million for AIDS research at the Center for Disease Control and the National Institute of Health, respectively, in fiscal year 1984; the Waxman and Kennedy amendments, HR 2350 and S 773, which would require the NIH to establish expedited procedures for public health emergency research (it presently takes over a year just to set it up); and the Weiss bill, HR 2880, which calls for automatic Medicaid eligibility for AIDS patients, and which faces an uphill battle (this has been done only once before).

Corman praised the efforts of California Congressmen Ed Roybal and Ron Dellums, both of whom have been very helpful in obtaining funding for AIDS research. President Reagan, on the other hand, has opposed *additional* funding for AIDS, preferring to take monies away from other projects to finance it. Recent press accounts have tend-

ed to obfuscate his position, according to Corman.

Corman also announced that former Congressman Jim Corman, a 20 year veteran of Congress and leading advocate of civil rights and national health insurance, and with whom she shares a close relationship, will head a special AIDS lobbying task force. This group will include Judy Goldsmith, national president of N.O.W., and Dan Bradley, former president of the National Legal Services Corporation.

Gomez spoke of NGTF's Director Ginny Apuzzo's recent appearance testifying before Congressional Committees and at the National Conference of Mayors in Denver. He said that representatives from NGTF will be meeting soon with aids to the President.

Gomez said that NGTF has been trying to monitor the actual spending of monies for AIDS research, and that while the CDC has been more cooperative than the NIH, both have been very reluctant to disclose exactly how much is being spent and in what way.

Kerry Woodward, Club Finance Chair, spoke of the need to contribute to both organizations to help finance these lobbying efforts: "Many people think that these national organizations magically appear in New York and Washington, but the fact is that they depend primarily on people like ourselves to support them with memberships. Without these organizations, there would be no AIDS funding at a national level."

The East Bay Lesbian Gay Democratic Club formed a special East Bay AIDS Task Force, to find out what is being done for AIDS patients in Alameda County, and recom-

The Sacramento AIDS/KS Foundation has formed two support groups for persons who are concerned about AIDS.

The first group is limited to those persons who have the lymph node, or intermediate, syndrome. Persons interested in participating in this group must have been diagnosed by a physician as having a chronic CMV infection or lymphadenopathy, and must register with the Sacramento AIDS/KS Foundation office by calling 448-AIDS, Monday — Friday between 9 — 5. The group will meet on four consecutive Tuesdays beginning July 12, at 7:30 PM. Topics for discussion will include emotional and interpersonal issues as well as medical information. Facilitators for this group are Elizabeth Harrison, M.D., Vice-Chair and Patient Services Coordinator of the Sacramento AIDS/KS Foundation, and Jackson Peyton, Volunteer Coordinator of the Hand-to-Hand Project.

According to Peyton, "Lymphadenopathy is a frequently occurring illness in the Sacramento area. Persistent swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, and malaise characterize the condition. CMV is also common, often resulting in an illness that can deplete the sufferer physically and emotionally for long periods. Anxiety, fear, depression, and the sense of isolation may accompany these illnesses. This group will provide medical information as well as a chance to explore and

mend appropriate action for the club to take in this area. Anyone interested in helping with this project should call 849-3983.

The next meeting of the EBL/GDC will begin with a

share feelings through small group discussion."

The second support is for persons who are presently well but are also worried about AIDS. This group, the "Worried Well," is facilitated by Marty Rogers, Ph.D., and meets every other Wednesday, beginning June 29 at 7:30 P.M. No registration is necessary to participate in this group.

Dr. Rogers commented, "This group has been established to help minimize the anxiety Gay men are experiencing because of the AIDS scare. The group will help function as a place where people can share information about AIDS and function as a support group."

Both the Lymphadenopathy and the Worried Well groups will meet at the office of the Sacramento AIDS/KS Foundation, 2115 J Street, Suite 3. There is no charge for participation. ■

The Stanislaus Owl Empire proudly presents the Yankee Doodle Sweetheart Ball Saturday, July 2 at the Eagles Hall, 126 Camels Way, Modesto, CA. from 8 PM til 1:30 AM. Half the proceeds will benefit Kaposi's Sarcoma. A fulfilled evening of dancing. \$5 in advance \$6.50 at the door. Call (209) 521-0226 or 521-9102 or write S.O.E., P.O. Box 6272, Modesto, CA 95355.

potluck dinner, at 7 PM at the West Branch of the Berkeley Library, 1125 University Avenue, on Sunday July 10th. All those interested are invited to attend. Call 849-3983 for further information. ■



Jose Gomez, Tanyan Corman, EGL/GDC President Armand Boulay, and Finance Chair Kerry Woodward at the Democrat Club AIDS Forum.

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B.A.R. INTERVIEW

Gay Comedy Activist

Pitfall Prancing With Tom Ammiano

Weirdo Sissy Becomes San Francisco's Reigning Male Comedian

by Scott Treimel

You pay your dough, enter the joint, and Tom Ammiano starts wagging his wrists and shrieking. Either he shrieks or he calls park restrooms Gay shrines. Sometimes he calls the Mayor's hairdo a throwback to The Planet of the Apes. Sometimes he flashes a picture of a piglet with a bow and calls in Wendy Nelder. Pretty funny guy, Tom Ammiano. Pretty effeminate too. And political. Since the Valencia Rose launched Gay Comedy night in February last year Ammiano has made good by being all three things at once, which is not easy to do. Comedians can be overeager, queens embarrassing, politicians obnoxious. But Ammiano knows this turf and prances over the pitfalls just as nimbly as you please. He knows this turf because this turf is his life.

There is little difference between Tom Ammiano as a comedian and Tom Ammiano as a fellow who drinks a beer and tells you his story. He has a rushy, nervous way about him. He picks his fingers and gesticulates frantically and talks a mile a minute. He's no lunatic, he just tends towards the adamant. When he is deliberating his face squinches up like Lily Tomlin's Ernestine, and when he makes an especially funny remark he smiles like a pleased Bette Midler. He is intelligent, gregarious, and above all sincere: who he is is how he behaves. This is an endearing quality and Ammiano has had to pay for it.

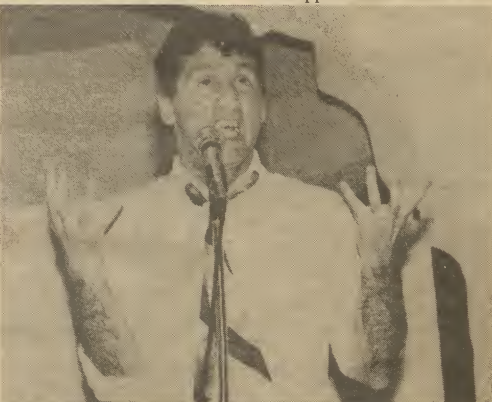
Ammiano was born in Newark, New Jersey on the Day Pearl Harbor was bombed. His family lived in one of those Italian ghettos where mothers hang out windows and fathers debate on the street. His father drove a cab in Manhattan, and once he died, his mother worked in the telephone company cafeteria.

Young Tom liked to read and to fantasize. He was educated at Immaculate Conception, a private school he attended free because his family belonged to the parish. Catholicism wracked him with its typical guilt, and at six he already began to hear the mystifying whisper that tells Gay kids they are different. What it implied he did not know, although he clearly knew what he liked when he got naked with his little cousins.



Little Me. Cool and collected, Tom Ammiano offstage. (Photo: Rink)

Most Gay kids feel different; Ammiano also looked it. He was cross-eyed and for years had to wear an eyepatch, which made him a weirdo as well as a sissy.



Oh Really, Mary. Exasperation takes over and the activist goes limp, rolling his eyes. (Photo: Rink)

Of course he was picked on. He was brassy enough that at first he fought back, but his tormentors undercut his defense by saying he fought like a girl. When he tells his story now, Ammiano throws in a little analysis. "It's just like today when Briggs and Reagan tell us to stay in the closet and not fight back." See what I mean: in the same breath Ammiano exhales effeminacy and politics, a neat integration, admirable too.

By the time he was seventeen Ammiano's hormones compelled the usual dilemma — the expression they urged horrified him. Filled with shame, he figured it might help to flee New Jersey and Catholicism. He did neither, however, because he won a scholarship to Seton Hall, a Catholic university in South Orange. Here he tried to sublimate his libido in a budding idealism. He aimed to be a journalist because it seemed vaguely heroic, but upon discovering "most journalists are stupid and many are shiteheads," he returned to his uneasy predicament. This time he fled.

Ammiano joined the Peace Corp, a popular move for post-graduates in the heady days of John Kennedy. The Corp's cri-

teria for acceptance, however, proved more narrow than Ammiano could oblige. He alarmed the psychiatrist who reviewed his initial application because the in-

terests he listed, floristry for example, were suspect. He admitted to no homosexual tendencies when queried, but was later "deselected" anyway, perhaps because his voice was too high or his manner too arch.

Hurt and miffed, Ammiano escaped to California, to Camp Easterseal in Cupertino, where he could counsel disabled kids, as he had done for a number of summers previously. When he still couldn't shake his aberrant urges, he fled again, this time to Vietnam to teach English. Here, half way around the world and still at odds with himself, Ammiano resolved to confront his incognito sexuality once he returned to the States. He resolved to see a psychiatrist and exorcize his homosexuality. Instead, once he returned to the States he came to San Francisco.

Such is the biography of Tom Ammiano's time in the closet. It was a particularly brutalizing experience that bruised him as a youth and pursued him as a young man. San Francisco appears to have worked a cure on Ammiano's early torment. He now lives on Potrero Hill with his lover who sings in the chorus and is also a teacher. He says he is happy and he says



Mowing 'Em Down. Tom Ammiano takes sharp and sure aim on a political target. (Photo: Rink)

his friendships are long-term and true. Still, you can tell by his humor that Ammiano's past has scarred him and he is angry.

Anger is a useful platform for a comedian (look at Richard Pryor or Lenny Bruce) and it is an expression that works for Gay audiences. Ammiano likes to joke about ideas and behavior that dump on Gay people — things that make Gay people uneasy. This is his comic strategy: he creates tension and then comes up with a funny line to explode it and you laugh. There is a political dimension to this trick, for although it releases you from the tension, it keeps you mindful that being Gay is not a holiday; it reminds you that Gay people are still disenfranchised.

Gay audiences identify with Ammiano's anger, which is not explicitly pronounced but buried in the resentment that underscores his humor. He will say for example, that while other school kids were expelled for smoking, he was expelled for flamboyant smoking. Then he does a little Bette Davis bit and it's funny. It is funny because we all know the glamorous sissy he's joking about — he can be seen in cafes and glamor bars all over town. The joke presumes that most Gay men have at some time been shamed for sissyness and the anger resides in the fact that there has been shame to pay for in the first place. It is the familiar aim to reclaim that is work here. Ammiano wants to reclaim our right to be sissies.

In some way or another there is a political design behind most of Ammiano's jokes, which is natural enough since he has been politically engaged since he came to the Bay Area. He was teaching in the Mission District when he began to understand that power is a concept that exists beyond the abstract. He realized that the school system was a branding non-English speaking students as retarded and the realization politicized him. He grew his hair long and began lobbying. In 1974 he joined Bay Area Gay Liberation and the following year he founded Gay Teachers, an organization that rallied for non-discriminating hiring practices and landed Ammiano's face on the front page of the *Examiner*. Later he organized the Speakers Bureau, which brings Gay people into the schools to rap with students, and for this he was smeared in the pages of the *National Enquirer*. In 1980 Ammiano ran for the school board.

Ammiano is still teaching, but he wouldn't mind making a living at comedy if he could swing it. The problem is that few entertainers make a living off the Gay community alone and the owners of the straight clubs remain straight faced when it comes to Gay comedy. "Comedy is the last bastion of heterosexuality," Ammiano said. "The Other Cafe is the pits. Gay comedians have gone there and tried to be out and they've been asked not to come back. The people at the Punch Line have refused to see us at the Rose. They want us to go there and audition, but if we do, they're uncomfortable with who we are. So, if we go there we have to alter our material and buy into their trip, which of course makes it impossible to be funny because that isn't who we are. Working at the Rose, on the other hand, it is accepted that you're Gay right off the bat, so you don't have to deal with that and you can worry about whether you're funny or not, which is the real question anyway."

Ammiano tries to be funny and he tries to be political and he is always himself, which, as I say, is a bit swishy — nothing outrageous, but you detect it's there. You also detect that his politics transcend being Gay and also address things such as the doublespeak that dominates American politics. He likes to point out, for example, the President's insistence on calling missiles peacemakers.

As Ammiano goes about his day, which generally includes working out at the "Muscle Sissies" (which he does a spoof on), he keeps his eye peeled for the antics that flood the city streets, the little confusions of regular people on Muni and in stores. When he finds something humorous, he goes home and stands around practicing the delivery that best milks the incident's humor.

What is wonderful about Tom Ammiano is what is wonderful about Gay comedy: he laughs at us in our own terms.

Like all funny, political sissies he laughs in a familiar way, and it is that familiarity that makes both him and his comedy likeable. ■

Tom Ammiano will emcee and perform at the Valencia Rose Gay Comedy Extravaganza, Saturday, June 25, 9 p.m. (552-1445); at the Gay Day Parade Rally in Civic Center on June 26; and at Gay Open Mike Comedy, Monday, June 27, 8:30 p.m. at the Valencia Rose.

BACK BY DEMAND

THE ENDUP presents **the CAMTLES**

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GayWHOGayWHATGayWHEREGayWHENGayWHY

Wilde in Prison

The posters were ripped down as fast as they went up. Perhaps people mistook the ads for a staged production of Oscar Wilde's **The Ballad of Reading Gaol** for political propaganda. "Each man kills the thing he loves," the poster blared in large letters. Most people think the line comes from Genet or Fassbinder, but Oscar Wilde wrote it in prison. Graffiti artists defaced the few remaining posters with the names of other possible authors and counter-slogans, like "Dan White," and "Each woman loves the thing she kills."

Robert Pitman, the director of this unique theatre piece, is scandalized by the last two pieces of graffiti. Realizing the poster needed to be changed so it would not be offensive, he was glad for the reaction.

"The last thing I wanted was for people to be indifferent," he told the Bay Area Reporter.

"Although the result is a collective effort between the performers and myself, the original idea was mine. I was led to the poem through an article about Wilde's visit to San Francisco in 1862. I wanted to reveal the poem's imagery and emotion and find an effective theatrical format to present it.

"We examined the poem and broke it down. We created a 'Who's Who' to provide characters. The Poet suffers in jail; Fate-authority is represented by the warden, and a guardsman becomes the man who is to be hanged.

"The piece takes place in the mind of the poet. He's creating it, and we can experience his emotions.

"We've used video and life-sized puppets to complement the cast of seven and have designed the show environmentally. Spec-



Strung Out with Oscar. The cast of **THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL** working on a climactic moment during rehearsals. (Photo: Cangiano)

tators will be seated in isolated sections so that they can experience the isolation of prison in the play's one-hour duration.

"One of the problems we faced was the relentless meter of the poem's stanzas. We worked against that, and the show is definitely not a recitation. I don't

know what it is," Pitman shrugged. "It might be a play."

The Ballad of Reading Gaol will be performed at 544 Natoma, Thursday through Saturday, June 23-25 and June 30-July 2, at 9 PM. Tickets, \$4 with reservations, \$5 at door. Phone: 621-2683.

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SHANTI PROJECT

Band Celebrates 5th

Five years ago this month Jon Sims organized the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps. To celebrate the event the San Francisco Band Foundation will throw open the doors of California Hall June 25 for a grand musical salute and party called **Fives**. For \$5 celebrants will be treated to a vast array of musical groups including The Band, The Tap Troupe, The F.L.A.G. Corps and a long list of other groups including Dick Kramer's Gay Men's Choral; Pacific Lesbian and Gay Men's Chorus led by Robin Kay; the Hayward Raw Raws; The Pendulum Pirates Cheerleaders; Foggy City Squares; Golden Gate Brass Quintet; The Mount Suto Trio; Sonny Padilla, Empress Connie and an appearance by Dykes on Bikes.

The Widow Norton will make an appearance as one of the evening's hostesses and will lead a distinguished group of judges from the Imperial Courts in judging the party decor of the reserved party tables. Group tables for ten are available for \$50. Any group or organization is invited to join in on the fun and decorate their table in the Birthday decor of their own design. Prizes will be awarded for the best theme tables. For table reservations or ticket information call 621-5619. Tickets are available in advance at Headlines. Doors at California Hall will open at 7 PM and the entertainment starts at 8. This event should be a great warm up for the Parade the next day. ■

As the Stars Fall

Night of the Fallen Stars — An Italian Extravaganza will be presented on Wednesday, June 29, 11 PM at Club 181 (181 Eddy at Turk). the gala event is a send-off for Mark Huestis' film *Whatever Happened to Susan Jane?*. The event celebrates the films *European* premiere at the Florence International Film Festival and will be a wild potpourri of Italian camp and culture. Featured live on stage will be the Four Beauties, Silvana Nova as Maria Callas, Ann Block, La Luly, A Bologna Vencenzia, White Trash Boom-Bom, and Miss Patsy Cline in stunning tribute to Connie Francis. After the show there will be D.J. dancing til 4 AM with Gregory C. on disques. ■

Eagle Benefits Film

The S.F. Eagle will be hosting a kick-off beer bust on Gay Freedom Day, Sunday, June 26, from 3 PM to 6 PM, to benefit **Out of Order: The Times of Harvey Milk**, the documentary film now in production by local filmmaker Rob Epstein. This film just received a \$100,000 challenge grant and will be part of a national public television series called "Non Fiction Television." However, another \$22,000 must be raised to qualify the film for the challenge grant. The deadline to raise this money is July 15. Admission to the beer bust is \$6 with all proceeds going to benefit the Harvey Milk Film Project, a nonprofit group. ■

Kramer to New Post

Dick Kramer, founder and until recently, conductor of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, was selected last week from a field of 83 applicants to be the new musical director of the Contra Costa Chorale.

Kramer replaces Paul Perry. In announcing the change, Chorale President James Benney said, "Though we are very sorry to lose Paul Perry, who has done a remarkable job for the Chorale in the last five years, we are pleased to have found a candidate for the position who is as qualified as Richard Kramer." ■

Photo Show

A photo series by Virginia Benavidez featuring still-life documentation of Gay people's personal environments can be viewed throughout June at the Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia Street. ■

Author's 'Reunion'

Persona Press announces a book party for *Reunion* by N. A. Diaman, Saturday, June 25, 1 to 3 PM at Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market Street. ■

Golden Gate Tempest

Shakespeare — San Francisco offers free performances of *The Tempest*, each weekend afternoon (and Monday July 4) at 2 p.m. until July 31 in the meadow to the east of the Flower Conservatory in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

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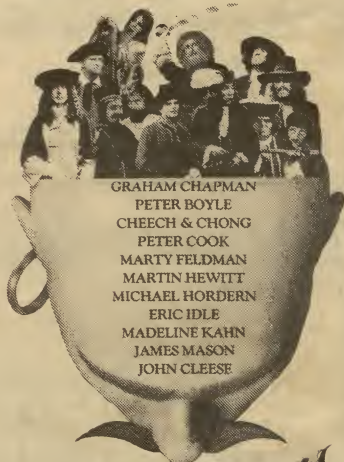
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Screenplay by GRAHAM CHAPMAN, PETER COOK
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Film Editor WILLIAM REYNOLDS, A.C.E.
Director of Photography GERRY FISHER, B.S.C.
Music Composed by JOHN MORRIS Executive Producer JOHN DALY
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FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY & STEVE WARREN

Abuse

Love and Beatings

A film about child abuse containing a Gay love story has the potential to be *Without a Trace II*; but that's not what Arthur J. Bressan Jr. has made in *Abuse*.

He has blended the two themes extremely well, handled controversial issues intelligently and unflinchingly, put across messages without preaching and information and statistics without being didactic, and at-



Gay Filmmaker Arthur J. Bressan Jr. breaks through to a mass audience with *Abuse*. (Photo: Rink)

tained an unheard of (even in black-and-white) level of technical excellence on a \$27,000 budget. These accomplishments add up to a miracle of independent filmmaking.

Based largely on Bressan's own experience, *Abuse* is about Larry (Richard Ryder), a film student making a documentary about child abuse for his master's degree. He meets Thomas (Raphael Sbarge), a battered 14-year-old, and restructures the film around him. They both happen to be Gay, and a love affair develops.

When Larry's romantic notions threaten to turn the story into fantasy or tragedy, he has friends who bring him down to earth.

While the focus is on Thomas' story, including surreal depictions of violence in his home life, the film-within-a-film allows Bressan to incorporate details of other children who suffer psychological and sexual as well as physical abuse, and horrifying statistics about the 4,000 deaths, 65,000 sexual assaults and 200,000 beatings known to occur annually. Staged interviews present typical attitudes ranging from "Castrate the parents" to "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

The casting has been done with care, except for some of the

non-professionals in minor roles. Neither of the leads is so gorgeous as to distract us from the thrust of the story. Sbarge looks grown up enough for open-minded audiences to accept the message that he is better off being loved by a man than beaten by his parents.

Ryder bears a physical resemblance to Bressan, who paints his surrogate with warts and all, careless but always well meaning as he centers his life first around film and then around Thomas.

"Beating is love," R.W. Fassbinder said in *Shadow of Angels*. "Love is part of the abuse cycle," says a psychologist in *Abuse*, explaining that children put up with the beatings for the affection they receive inbetween.

My only criticism of *Abuse* is purely subjective. For me the film doesn't have the dramatic power it should. I wasn't horrified by most of the beatings or as enraptured by the romance as I would have been if the director had been a more skillful manipulator.

Others, however, may be strained to the limits of their endurance by the things shown and described in *Abuse*, a fine piece of work by one of our best Gay filmmakers.

(Lumiere) S. Warren

Hollywood Out Takes

Summer Camp

You may be surprised that the best of *Hollywood Out Takes* are not the bloopers made by the stars but the shorts, commercials, and charity appeals they purposefully made.

Ron Blackman and Bruce Goldstein have compiled almost an hour and a half of lost footage of Hollywood stars in their heyday. There's a Bela Lugosi giving Betty Boop some deep fang, Constance Bennett giving technicolor beauty tips, Bette Davis hawking a 1934 G.E. Dishwasher, Shirley Temple (at age 5) pleading for Red Cross bucks as scenes of disasters are shown ("Those are real people

dying," little Shirley says wondrously), a Lesbian TV commercial, some X-rated (for then)



MMMM GOOD. MM cuts up in *HOLLYWOOD OUTTAKES* at the Castro Theatre.

W.C. Fields footage and much more.

With no narration the clips speak for themselves, yet our curiosity peaks about half way through and *Hollywood Out Takes* begins to feel like watching a collection of home movies. The camp appeal is still strong, as is the historical perspective this pastiche gives us. The blooper out-takes reveal "Goddammit" as the strongest curse exclaimed. In a quick cut montage we see all the stars guilty of using that dirty word.

Then there is Judy Garland singing "Over the Rainbow" — straight. And years later we see Judy at the opening festivities of her *Star is Born*.

It's all light weight and amusing and like Ripley's "Believe It Or Not", the curious and the aficionado should not miss it.

(Castro) M. Lasky

The Survivors

No Laughing Matter

There are plenty of good laughs in *The Survivors*, many of them coming from Robin Williams acting more Robin Williams-y than the big screen has previously allowed him to.

As a contemporary social satire *The Survivors* is less successful, mildly amusing attacking the tired targets of bureaucracy, machismo and the depression (the third June release in which major characters are unemployed), but less funny in spoofing reactionary paranoia in response to urban crime. The closer it comes to what it's really about, the worse the movie gets.

Williams is fired from an "upper management" job at a company he's worked for for eight years. Walter Matthau loses his service station franchise after 12 years and can't collect unemployment because he was an employer. They become acquainted when they foil Jerry Reed's attempt to hold up a diner. Reed's a hit man who's fallen on hard times because even the murder market is down. (He's also a decent actor, as I suspected in his *Smokey and the Bandit* days.)

When Reed goes after Matthau, Williams goes off the deep end. "The world is coming apart like a cheap suit," he declares; and he buys a semi-automatic .308 caliber assault rifle with folding stock — to defend himself or make buttonholes, take your pick. His fiancée leaves him when he registers for a right-wing survival training school — "I don't believe in surviving, I believe in living," she says.

Except for bits of slapstick, the school business — which is

the film's second half — isn't nearly silly or funny enough. Everybody delivers "What American Means to Me" speeches on the way to a hopeful ending.

Director Michael Ritchie did a brilliant job of mocking the American dream in *Smile*; but in trying to track the country's descent into the toilet, he's fallen in with it this time.

(Cinema 21) S. Warren



Held Up. Robin Williams suffers the same fate as the film he's in, when *The Survivors* doesn't survive its script.

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Cafe Flesh

Progressive Porn?

A film about the erotic casualties of WWII might seem a bit severe, especially in porno movie form. On its first release, in fact, *Cafe Flesh* sent porno theatre customers running for the exits.

Cafe Flesh lacks the budget to spruce up its science fiction aspects and the porno angle, as hardcore as an X can be, is a basic turn off because of the nature of the plot and the stylized New Wavish direction. That leaves one way left to enjoy *Cafe Flesh* — as camp.

The acting is uniformly atrocious — to the point that it is amusing for its alternating self-consciousness and glib, hammy indulgences. It's pure ham and cheese-cake.

The sex scenes all occur on the stage of the *Cafe Flesh* where 99% of the surviving population come to watch the other one percent perform. The 99% are sex negatives, the fallout mutating them into craving sex but getting violently ill if they try to have it.

So they come and watch. Hosted by an obnoxious M.C. we get mini-Busby Berkeley style porno acts that are as sexist as they are hardcore. The men



(except for one at the end) are completely covered including their faces. The women, of course, are not. All the elements of straight porno are here (down to the obligatory Lesbian 69 sequence). Filmed in translucent, crisp color and impeccably lit, the sex scenes are noteworthy for their choreography, if nothing else. What makes *Cafe Flesh* unique is that is has, perhaps, the first and hopefully the last performance by a woman who looks like Eartha Kitt but sounds and acts suspiciously like Sylvia Miles. ■

(*Cafe Flesh* will screen each Saturday at midnight at the Strand Theatre.) M. Lasky

Children of Paradise

Every Convolution Of Love

Marcel Carne's epic classic of human folly and love in 19th century France has returned with a new 35mm print to the Gateway Theatre through the end of June.

Featuring Jean-Louis Barault and the incomparable Arletty, *Children of Paradise* is a story of unrequited love among the actors, street people, and criminals in early 1800s

Paris.

Filmed during WWII occupied France, Carne's poetically romantic film explores the relations between theatre and life. In fact at least five different kinds of dramatic modes are used — from mime to melodrama. The old metaphorical question, of whether art imitates life or vice-versa has never been more compassionately and understandingly depicted in a story filled with glorious characterization that sweeps us along like a Gallic *Gone With The Wind*.

To be seen again and again, *Children of Paradise* is 188 minutes with an intermission. ■ (Gateway) M. Lasky



Rich is Better, as Eddie Murphy (feigning leglessness) is about to learn by Trading Places with Dan Aykroyd, promising preppy protege of heartless tycoons Don Ameche (I.) and Ralph Bellamy. Murphy is the main reason for seeing John Landis' attempt at a 30's style madcap comedy. Everything else is mildly amusing, but Murphy is occasionally hilarious as changing fortunes turn him into a temporary WASP — well, BASP.

(Regency II)

S. Warren



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STAGE

Raw Classic of Belonging

by Sue Zemel

Studio Rhinoceros' production of *Member of the Wedding* captures the spirit and feeling of Carson McCullers' classic play about adolescence. While the play is not a Gay work per se, the main character's struggle to belong closely parallels the experience of many Gay people including McCullers herself, who spent many years coming to terms with her own Lesbian identity.

"All people belong to a we except me," says Frankie. Longing for a sense of connectedness, she wants "to know everyone in the whole world."

Intense and spontaneous, throughout the play Frankie shares her dreams and frustrations with Bernice Sadie Brown, an earthy Black woman, who has raised her since Frankie's mother died in childbirth. Her precocious little cousin John Henry both entertains and annoys Frankie, who is preoccupied preparing for the wedding of her older brother Jarvis and his girlfriend Janice. Lanky and awkward, just beginning to see herself in sexual terms, Frankie decides to change her name to Jasmine, and makes a plan to run off with the newlyweds.

In addition to exploring the painful process of growing up with compassion and a gentle humor, McCullers, who lived and wrote in the South, tackles

the subject of racism. Bernice Sadie Brown's brother Honey is, like Frankie, an outsider. Angry and rebellious, he refuses to be "niggerized." He has no way out, however, and winds up meeting a tragic end.

Actress Ann Ward puts in an outstanding performance as Frankie, flying off the handle, laughing one moment and crying the next. "I feel like someone has peeled all the skin off me," she says — and it's this quality of rawness that Ward brings to her role. She also conveys a certain "tomboyishness" I identified with baby dykedom. Esther Scott as Bernice Sadie Brown is very believable and her

performance was well-rounded. Aaron Denny is cute as John Henry, although his inconsistent Southern accent was distracting.

Overall, Pat Bond and John Beeman have done a sensitive job directing the play, which Theatre Rhinoceros is producing as part of its Lesbian outreach program. The otherwise well designed set was a bit too elaborate for the small studio space, and I wondered how the production would look mounted on the main stage. Still, Carson McCullers' script is strong and her skill as a playwright is considerable. To celebrate Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week I recommend this production of *Member of the Wedding*.

Member of the Wedding
Studio Rhino
Through July 17; 861-5079



Belonging and Not Belonging. Studio Rhino's excellent production of *Member of the Wedding* stars (l. to r.) Ann Ward, Esther Scott and Aaron Denny. (Photo: Dakota)

Exhilaration of Tango Blitz

by Scott Treimel

Also Movimento's *Tango Glaciale* (Ice Cold Tango) makes experimental theater as accessible as comic books. It has the same look — a messy, stylized blitz — and it achieves the same direct rapport, quite unlike most experimental theater, which works only within a critical context. *Tango Glaciale*, the conception of a 23-year-old Italian, Mario Martone, opened San Francisco's International Theatre Festival last week with the thrill of an elegant

burp.

The company aptly calls its work "mediatheater" because it weaves music (ranging from Debussy to Duke Ellington to the Raybeats and Bow Wow Wow), choreography, theatrical movement, and slide projections into scenes that melt in and out of one another like drifting radio reception.

The scenes explore the interaction of three inhabitants of the same house. They move from liv-

ingroom to kitchen to rooftop to garden to swimming pool, at each instance transformed by their environment. A man tangoes first with a vacuum cleaner and then another man, he wrestles with a shower nozzle and plays a saxophone that quietly descends from the sky. Instead of bafflement you feel exhilaration because the imagery here is familiar from Hollywood, so you have a handle on things. There is a *Star Wars*/James Bond sequence, a play on *New York, New York*, and a nod to Gene Kelly in *On The Town*.

Although the piece has language (Italian, English, and Greek), it is essentially non-verbal and the meaning is carried mostly by the movement. Much of it is fidgety, gangly — a kind of post-punk goony chic — but some movements have the fluid charm of the '40s, and all of it sets the world spinning in a screwball universe of cascading light, playful wit, and riotous melody.

The actors (Tomas Arana, Andrea Renzi, Licia Maglietta) make a relentlessly vibrant ensemble. You sense they can do anything, be anyone, because who they are in *Tango Glaciale* is whatever best suits the music and slide projections. The world the piece evokes is ruled by media, which not only defines its inhabitants but swallows them whole.

Tango Glaciale
Theatre Artaud
Through July 9; 621-7797



Ice Dancing. Tomas Arana (l.) dances with Andrea Renzi in *TANGO GLACIALE*.

Milk Club Dinner on KSAN

"The Gay Life" on KSAN, 95FM, will present taped highlights of the May 26 Harvey Milk's Birthday Dinner of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club, on Sunday, June 26 at 6 AM. The dinner featured a tribute to the late U.S. Representative Phil Burton.

STAGE

Flung Dung In A Singapore Sling

by Scott Treimel

Singapore Sling takes the cake for cockamamie pandemonium. It is written by Austria's leading playwright Wolfgang Bauer, who is considered a post-absurdist, and translated by the Magic's dramaturg Martin Esslin and his wife Renata. The play is called an experimental comedy, and I can assure you it is both.

The action is set in a suite in the Raffles Hotel, a Victorian extravaganza in Singapore where Conrad, Kipling, and Somerset Maugham stayed and set stories. It may be the ghosts of these men, or the residue of their stories that turn this suite into a looney bin. We are told the hotel has seventeen bars, also that the toilet paper is as fine as tapestry — only it's been used before. Three couples occupy the room simultaneously, each unaware of the others' presence. One of the occupants, Tristan, is a self-conscious poet. When he showers blood flows from the tap. When his nice bath becomes an ice bath, his girlfriend Isabella tries to skate on it. Another couple are retired Geography teachers. They have something weird going with a plastic map, which they water (to affect a monsoon) wrap around themselves during sex. The woman, Mildred, eats so much her gut actually balloons. She eats a truffle she says is the sun, throws it up, and we see it really is the sun. Then there is the third couple, a slimy diplomat and his bitchy, fashiony es-

cort. Before she says she loves him he keeps trying to rape her, and as this happens three goofy Chinese members of the housekeeping staff come running and racing all around the place. They do this a number of times, sometimes flinging dung patties about. Finally Van Gogh, Gauguin, and one of his models enter and painting commences. Various a war is going on outside or a war is going in America and Europe and being broadcast outside. Oh, you don't know what's going on. It's the wildest mess I ever saw.

At one point Van Gogh says linear time has been executed. This appears true but it is not what the play is about. The play is not actually about any one thing. It defies exact interpretation and is simply a series of themes — man's relation to himself, the nature of reality, the nature of dreams — and a series of images, gruesome, funny, poetic. It all leaves you kind of whacked out.

The Magic's production boasts its typical slick polish. Geoffrey Reeves' direction squeezes all possible mania from the script and throws in a little of its own fun cutesiness, but never so much that things get sticky. The cast does well on the fine set by Ferdinand Penker. Lighting is by John Rathman.

Singapore Sling
Magic Theatre
Through July 31; 441-8822



Malay Melee. Gerald Ambinder and Carol Shoup-Sanders are featured in SINGAPORE SLING at the Magic Theatre. (Photo: A. Nomura)

Rousing Tradition Questioned

by Sue Zemel

Before I went to see El Teatro Campesino's production of *Corridos* I was warned that although Luis Valdez's musical play is a wonderful peice of theatre, the images of women presented in the work would put me off. It is and they did.

Los corridos, popular folk ballads from the 100 year old Mexican tradition, are full of history, literature, and politics. Based on actual events and personalities, these lyric verses speak of love, sex, revolution, and death. Like fairy tales, or soap operas, they reflect the attitudes of the popular culture.

In the corridos the characters embody stereotypes: the men are macho, arrogant, and womanizers; and the women are virgins and angels, whores and seductresses. Conflict and violence

between and among the sexes pervades the stories, and the women, who are the chattel of men, inevitably wind up as the victims.

For example, in the corrido "Cornelio Vega" the main character, a man notorious for his drinking and fighting, encounters a man and his wife walking on the street. He tells the man to kiss his feet, and then orders him to give up his woman. The woman, who is powerless in the situation, must go with Cornelio, who proceeds to rape her. The husband arrives on the scene and shoots Cornelio in the back. The corrido concludes that Cornelio Vega died "for making love to a woman."

After watching the first five corridos, all of which are built on

(Continued on next page)



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Hello, Ghetto, Bye Bye

by Bernard Spunberg

Even a talented cast sensitively directed by the reputable Beah Richards is insufficient to knit Crystal Rhodes' loose, episodic drama *Stoos* into a unified, compelling experience.

A series of vignettes traces the lives of three black women and one man over the period during which the urban, Black, political consciousness of our time took shape. Unfortunately, nothing as exciting as race riots, civil rights legislation, or Martin Luther King is ever mentioned. Rather, the basic conflict of the play emerges when one of the three girlfriends acquires a profession, leaves the ghetto, and adopts an African name, much to the disgust of the other two women, who prefer to remain in the ghetto and raise offspring.

Risky, daring self-definition and fulfillment of personal potential versus the safe, comfortable status quo; whether the base of oppression is the ghetto or the closet, the question is a

pithy one well worth dramatization.

But while clear cut answers are not expected, playwright Rhodes skirts the question. When we want heavy confrontation setting forth conflicting values, we get sentimentality. When the romantic relationship between the progressive woman and her man begins to disintegrate, we need revelation of character, but we get static soap opera. The conclusion is puzzling rather than uplifting as it attempts to reconcile emotional nostalgia for the ghetto with a need to transcend it.

The actors' evocation of ram-bunctious childhood is vivid, and Terriah McNair as Corky the bully impresses with a sweet vulnerability hidden just below her daredevil surface.

Deborah Asante, Karen Moore, and R.B. Fisher are all highly professional, which is not enough to give *Stoos* credibility.

Director Beah Richards sup-



The cast of *STOOS*. (l. to r.) Valerie Parker, R.B. Fisher, Deborah Asante, and Terriah McNair.

Hanging Heavy

by Steve Warren

It was one of those nights that make a critic question his calling. I was attracted to Tabu — The Elephant Boy? as much by the writer-director-puppeteer's clever name — Erick Gerrick — as by the concept of "an X-rated marionette thriller."

Well, I put on better puppet shows when I was eight years old. A great deal of work has obviously gone into building and costuming the more than 50 dolls, but they are poorly

manipulated. They move awkwardly if at all, including the mouths of those which are supposed to be speaking the pre-recorded dialogue. Puppeteer's hands frequently drop into sight and "special effects" are always telegraphed.

The script got laughs from some of the opening night crowd, probably Gerrick's friends. (There were also several walkouts.) It attempts to be relevant and funny while offending everyone. As periodic recaps remind you, it's about a mutant

enough to stay alive."

Corridos

(Continued from previous page)

basically sexist premises, I was relieved when the play's narrator remarked to the audience, "the portrayal of women leaves a lot to be desired." While the lack of consciousness in the dramatic material is disturbing, it made me feel better to hear an analysis, however fleeting, offered by playwright Valdez.

The next corrido in the show attempts to portray women in a more favorable light. It deals specifically with the women of the Mexican revolution. Their story is told by journalist John Reds Reed, who befriends a woman whose husband is killed in the war. The women in this corrido are fighters, as well as survivors. They band together, and at one point ironically sing, "Men, who can trust them long

Until the 1920's women were not even allowed to sing corridos.

The final corrido of the show, however, was written by a woman. Satiric in its intent, the story reverses the sex role stereotypes of the corrido tradition. The main character is a wild woman who runs around, drinks too much, and kills her husband when he does not agree to let her go to a New Year's party. At the party she carries on as if nothing had happened. She is arrested and taken to prison, and the corrido ends ambiguously with all the prisoners celebrating her unrepentant execution for murder.

While El Teatro Campesino has revived and elaborated upon a rich cultural tradition, my response to this evening of musical theater was mixed. In the program notes Luis Valdez

plies innumerable details which lend resonance and even some poetry to this production. She is to be credited with cultivating an ensemble style with the actors listening and reacting continually. But again, it's not enough.

GO Productions have lavished much labor, love, and talent on *Stoos*, which responds by coming to life only intermittently.

Stoos

On Broadway Theatre
Through July 3; 921-8234

Ballet for AIDS

Gerald Arpino has choreographed a new work, *Round of Angels* in memory of James Howell, who died of AIDS last fall. The dance will be given its local premiere as part of the Joffrey Ballet engagement at the Opera House on Thursday, July 7 at 8:30 PM. A select number of orchestra seats have been made available at a donation price of \$30 each, as a benefit for Life Support, a non-profit organization which provides health services to AIDS patients. After the performance, ticket holders are invited to meet Mr. Arpino and the dancers. Tickets are available at Au Naturel, 2370 Market, or by mail at the same address. Make checks out to Life Support/Capp Street. Info: 441-6407

Cabaret Dates

Terri Cowick makes her only San Francisco appearances for the summer at Fanny's on Thursday, June 23 at 8:30 and 10 PM and Friday, June 24 at 9:30 and 11 PM.

Don Johnson will appear at Fanny's on Thursday, June 30. Two sets begin at 8:30 PM.

Jae Ross continues each Saturday at the Roxy Roadhouse, from 9:30 on, and will be at Fanny's on Tuesday, June 28 at 8:30 PM.

child with a giant penis sired by a "cured homosexual" redneck bigot. The baby kills his twin sister in the womb and their mother at birth.

Sex between Lesbian nuns, an onstage castration and more sex between the boy and an elephant are among the high/low points of the play, depending on your taste — or lack of it. Attempts at satirizing sexism, racism, religion and politics are heavy handed and rarely funny.

The whole operation is quite unprofessional, or maybe people like Jim Henson and Bruce Schwartz have led us to expect too much of puppets these days.

writes, "Many of the attitudes reflected in verses, especially those depicting an 'evil woman' as the cause of the fall of many a good man, are decidedly old-fashioned and repugnant to modern viewpoints; but the overall thrust of the tradition reveals a surprising sense of moral detachment before the tragic excesses of human passions. Therein lies the source of much of the ironic humor found in corridos, including a healthy strain of social satire and commentary." While Valdez's intentions are obviously honorable, I noticed that people left the theatre entertained and dazzled by the production's elegance, rather than questioning the myths and stereotypes perpetuated by the stories.

Corridos

Marines Memorial Theatre
Through July 3; 974-6391

A Welcome Debut

by Bernard Spunberg

Warmth, maturity, and sophistication are not to be expected in the debut of a new ensemble, but Robin Kay's Pacific Lesbian and Gay Singers' first performance, given on June 18 at the First Congregational Church, was the exception to the rule. Most of these twenty-four musicians have performed together before, which partially explains why they sounded so smooth and homogenous at their first concert. But familiarity is no substitute for musicianship, and if basic technique were not in place, no amount of previous acquaintance would help.

Basic technique and a lot more were strongly in evidence from the start in a bouquet of pieces from the English Renaissance. Choral curtain raisers usually serve as warmups for the singer's voices and ears, but the Pacific Lesbian and Gay Singers offered fully realized interpretations and not mere run-throughs. Bennet's antiphonal "Round about in a fair ring" demonstrated just how rich a few well-trained voices can sound, as did Wilby's "Thus Saith by Chloris Bright," although the Singers should be on guard against saggy pitch.

The complicated counterpoint of Weekes' "Lo country sports" threw the Singers off and required a second start, something that can happen in the best of families. Ultimately, however, the Singers redeemed themselves with a clear, full-bodied, and

lusty rendition.

Brahms always presents the same problems. His dense textures may be opaque, his seriousness may bore, his passion may refuse to ignite. Kay and her Singers, however, sidestepped these problems in the four songs of opus 92 and showed a sensitive responsiveness to the requirements of Brahms' style. Thick textures were made transparent by highlighting inner voices, and long melodies were exhaled with tender feeling. While more tenor tone would have been welcome in the solo passage of "O Schöne Nacht," Kay's sopranos were particularly impressive in "Warum," alternately cutting through and receding into the overall texture.

Schumann's "Zigeunerleben" is a characteristic view of life among the gypsies as seen by a cultivated German Romantic. Kay's highly idiomatic performance was marked by much dynamic variety and clear diction. The drama of the piece was further enhanced by the assertive yet sensitive accompaniment of Bill Ganz.

The ascetic, contemplative mood of Faure's "Requiem" is meant to weave a spell of resigned serenity. Unfortunately, Faure has placed the responsibility for the creation of all this spirituality on the performer's shoulders, as his music is almost completely devoid of harmonic, rhythmic, dynamic, and textural variety. If perfect concentration is sustained at every moment — if every phrase is molded, every oppor-

tunity for dynamic variety seized, every word colored — Faure's Requiem can achieve its purpose. But if all the parts do not fall into place, Faure's "Requiem" can be a big, fat bore.

Robin Kay's Singers' concentration shimmered in and out of focus. When concentration was perfect, as in the *requiem aeternam* section of the "Agnes Dei," the effect was magical. When concentration relaxed the tiniest bit, however, so did the listener's attention.

Baritone Garrett Collins sang his solos in a somewhat dry voice of restricted range. Collins' performance of Debussy's "Beau Soir," however, sung last week as part of the recital by soloists from the Gay Men's Chorus, proved that this voice can be beautiful and his presence communicative. When Collins hits his stride, he will be a powerful performer.

Dana Vinicoff's clarion-clear, sweet soprano has an instrumental quality that was perfect for the "Requiem." Her solos rang out with great freedom and flexibility.

Faure's organ writing actually has more variety than his choral writing, and organist Jim Mayer's imaginative playing lent considerable interest to the performance.

Robin Kay's Pacific Lesbian and Gay Singers have established themselves as a formidable ensemble with only one performance. Their talent, accomplishment, and ambition make them a more than welcome addition to our local Gay concert scene.

"Beau Soir" was sung with a large, warm, and expressive sound, but Verdi's "Di provenza" from *La Traviata* was not.

Sean Martinfield rates five and a half screams for his rendition of variations on Mozart's "Variations on Ah! Vous dirai-je Maman?" ("Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" to you), Beverly Sills — tacky showoff! — recorded this in her prime just one octave above Martinfield. Sills may have been more accomplished vocally, but Martinfield is much funnier.

Andy Pesce and Terry Peterson performed piano works of Brahms and Chopin with tremendous authority. Both of them played their long and difficult pieces with singing tone and a sense of structure which gave unity to their interpretations.

Allan Blasdale performed more than anyone; he accom-

(Continued on page 45)

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Chorus Soloists Step Out

by Bernard Spunberg

Little nuggets — and a couple of boulders — of golden talent lie buried among the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. A recital by solo voices and instrumentalists drawn from the Chorus, given at the First Congregational Church on Sunday, June 12, proved conclusively that an ensemble that sustains a generally high level of musicianship over a long period must have some stellar members. Most pleasing about this concert was that not only were there the few, expected excellences, but absolutely no one performed who did not deserve a solo hearing.

Lester King, however, more than deserves a hearing; he is one of the stellar types. Mozart's "Il mio tesoro" from *Don Giovanni* is slow, high, and terribly difficult, but King's big,

sweet, even tenor filled out the long arches of melody most elegantly.

Dale Richard's baritone is similarly expressive. His two Strauss Lieder and French arias revealed a well-schooled technique at the service of a beautiful voice.

Ted Smith not only sang his Schubert Lieder, he interpreted them. His tenor is a small, silvery beam that was expanded — but not forced — to suit his French aria, which further demonstrated a sensitive responsiveness to style.

Matthew Thompson is young and inexperienced, but very talented. He's on the right track, and will never be handicapped by his appearances.

Garrett Collins is similarly talented, but uneven. Debussy's

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Ring Around the Valkyrie's Bush

GEORGE HEYMONT

The San Francisco Opera's new production of Wagner's *Die Walkure* is a bit like a remedial course in sex education — it's absolutely amazing how much you can learn with the lights on! For the first time in years, the Valkyrie maidens are an appealingly athletic crowd rather than the stereotyped image of the beef trust chorus line. Not only is Brunnhilde depicted as the kind of "Hey, let's go get 'em" dumb jockette she is supposed to be at the beginning of Act II, this is the first production I've seen in which her Valkyrie sisters are clad in costumes they could actually wear on a horse!

And, to be sure, this is the first time that a heroically sculpted Aryan stud has simulated an act of fisting on the stage of a major opera house.

TRIUMPH OF THE PETER METER

So let's get down to the meat of the matter. Ever since Peter Hofmann's San Francisco Opera debut in the title role of *Lohengrin*, local opera queens have been speculating over the mystical powers locked within various parts (other than the larynx, no doubt) of his well-carved anatomy. Of course, Hofmann can sing the role well. But not only does the blond heldentenor know how to strut his stuff, he gives the folks a good show, too. Needless to say, Hofmann's appearance as Siegmund certainly added an extra dimension to this summer's festival activities.

Perhaps they should be handing out Jac-Packs with the programs. The sexual tension in Act I demanded some kind of release. No wonder Leonie Rysanek began screaming her tits off! You would, too, if after 30 years of watching dumpy little tenors pull the sword out of your living room tree, deliverance finally arrived wrapped in such a powerfully pretty and persuasively potent package.

Wearing a suede leather vest over his well-pumped pectorals, Hofmann proceeded to flex his biceps, leap atop tables and sing up a storm while rivulets of sweat dripped down his magnificently chiseled torso (sort of like a medieval Christopher Reeve without spit curls). And then came the magic moment. With De Waart whipping the orchestra into a frenzy the blond heldentenor leaned back, his feet planted firmly on the stage floor, and slowly began to raise his clenched fist toward the sky. Flexing his muscles until his veins practically burst through the leather armguard, Hofmann dominated the stage of the War Memorial with the animal magnetism of an archetypal stud; his sexual energy able to perform magical acts of healing.

Many in the audience sat erect in their seats.

To be honest, Hofmann was not the only person onstage during Act I — although he sure captured much of the audience's attention. Hans Tschammer's Hundung was remarkably well-sung; a welcome change from the usual rough-shod run through the music. Oddly enough, Leonie Rysanek's Sieglinde showed signs of fraying around the edges. Her wild lurching about the stage (with arms flailing hither and yon in a grotesque parody of aversion therapy) works fine in more highly-stylized productions of the Ring. This time, however, the soprano's antics seemed overly self-indulgent.

Although Rysanek added some remarkable touches to her singing (her tender re-enactment of the childhood moments she shared with Siegmund) much of her body language was noticeably out of synch with the rest of the principals. Having watched Leonie in one of her signature roles for so many years, I find

it hard to believe that a time has arrived when this artist could seem out of whack with the character. One had the uncomfortable feeling that Leonie was merely playing Leonie. As powerful a performance as that can be, it does not always mesh with the rest of the world.



Big Daddy Bump Off. The dying Siegmund, sensationally portrayed by sometime-rock star Peter Hofmann (right, in leather head to toe) seeks answers from his father, Wotan (Thomas Stewart), in *DIE WALKURE*.

VALHALLA VENGEANCE

Act II brought a greater shock, opening onto an opulent, majestic red and gold set meant to be a courtyard in Valhalla. John Conklin's decor (which looks as if it were yanked out of the Beethoven segments of Walt Disney's *Fantasia*) is a delightful departure from the dark pictures we have seen in the past.

In many productions, the audience stays awake just long enough for Brunnhilde to sing "Ho Jo To Jo!" Once she splits the main stage in her effort to make the hills come alive with the sound of music and Fricka commences her endless moaning and bitching, people nod out by the hundreds. Between Thomas Stewart's animated performance and the sheer brilliance of full stage lighting for most of Act II, it becomes almost impossible to fall asleep during Wotan's monologue.

Helga Dernesch kept the audience on the edge of its seats with her aristocratic, leonine goddess — hammering away at Wotan until she had drawn enough of his blood to be satisfied. A dynamic artist whose full-throated voice and riveting stage presence dominate any performance, Dernesch seemed to take special delight in knowing that she had managed to humiliate Wotan in front of his favorite daughter. Her performance was a classic.

A bitch on wheels.

BURN, BABY! BURN!

This year San Franciscans had two Brunnhildes yelping up a storm and schlepping dead bodies around the stage (a welcome touch). Both Jeannine Altmeyer and Gwyneth Jones

have sufficient visual charms to prevent people from bemoaning the fact that "the opera isn't over until the fat lady sings."

Altmeyer, in particular, had a resounding success in her San Francisco Opera debut. The soprano's healthy voice, coupled with her athletic figure and buoyant youthfulness, helped to fashion a Brunnhilde of remarkable vim and vigor. With vocal resources that apparently won't quit, Altmeyer threw herself into a fresh characterization of the warrior maiden, engendering more sympathy for Brunnhilde's emotional maturation than one usually feels for older, beefier sopranos.

Jones, alas, does not have the surety of voice Altmeyer possesses. But as a seasonal veteran she knows how to milk her best moments for maximum mileage. The Welsh soprano started off with a series of "Ho Jo To Jo's" which pinpointed for the audience the exact moment in the score where Miss Gwyneth must have imagined being goosed.



Much of the second act was a hit and run affair with both Jones and Rysanek landing unsteadily on crucial notes. Jones' final act, however, was a model of Wagnerian dramatic technique: combining a clarion outpouring of sound with gut-wrenching theatrical impact.



Wonder Woman. Soprano Jeannine Altmeyer made a sensational debut as Brunnhilde, the warrior maiden of *DIE WALKURE*.

The Killing of 'The Murder of Tchaikowsky'

A Real-Life Whodunnit of San Diego Politics and Plays

by Steve Warren

When partners in the business end of show business get divorced, the grounds most commonly cited are "artistic differences." When a new Gay play, *The Murder of Tchaikowsky*, was shut down recently in San Diego in the second week of a scheduled six-week run, an investigation into the meaning of that vague term seemed in order.

On one side was the play's writer-director, John Stuart Anderson; on the other side Kim McCallum, artistic director of the Bowery Theatre, where the play had been performed. Their temperaments had clashed from the inception of the project and neither was secure enough in his role to handle it properly. As children suffer in marital conflicts, so the play was the victim of this one.

I didn't know I was witnessing the final performance when I saw the play on the first night of the American Theatre Critics Association convention. Here is the review I wrote at the time:

"I didn't make him pregnant!" Tchaikowsky says in defending his affair with a young prince to his boring brother, Modeste, in one of the corner moments of *The Murder of Tchaikowsky*. But playwright John Stuart Anderson has apparently been impregnated by Peter Shaffer through *Amadeus* and given birth to a new pseudo-historical play about the death of a great composer — this time a Gay play about a Gay composer.

vides a poison which will make his death appear to be from cholera. After stating three times that there's "nothing more to say," the playwright says more in an epilogue where the czar decides that Tchaikowsky was in no danger from his justice.

Tchaikowsky is played by Brian Lloyd, a clone-like man far younger than the composer, who died at 53. Michael McClure is believable as the object of his worship, but belies the description, "quite ordinary, only his royalty lending him distinction." As good as they frequently are individually, their scenes together have none of the passion they talk of endlessly. This is true even when they kiss,

San Diego just elected a new mayor, the relatively liberal Republican Roger Hedgecock. A local Gay community played a visible role in his narrow victory, and the mayor-elect is aware of it. "*The Gayzette*, the local Gay paper, endorsed me, and most of the Gay activists supported me. . . . My opponent and I were pretty much in agreement about Gay rights," he told me, being specific only with regard to employment discrimination "and we didn't have any trouble talking about it."

Hedgecock was viewed as the "people's" candidate, as his wealthy opponent, Maureen O'Connor, was able to finance her own expensive campaign. San Diego has a lot of people, having just passed Dallas to become the nation's seventh largest city. In five days there I witnessed contrasts between the very rich and the very poor — a reception at the home of Helen Copley, publisher of San Diego's daily papers, atop La Jolla's highest hill; an unusual number of thrift shops and stores selling second-hand everything, and TV zombies with nothing else to do, just glued for hours to sets in public places.

The Gay community seems to be doing well enough, with activity centered in but not limited to the Hillcrest area, the closest thing they have to a Gay ghetto. AIDS hasn't hit them hard but they've started amassing a war chest to fight the disease. The Hedgecock victory may give them the impetus to move into the '80's in terms of activity and visibility.

An establishment type told me life in San Diego is easy for everyone with a nonintrusive, graft-free government maintaining a *laissez-faire* attitude. A radical woman playwright described the city as the "scariest" she has ever lived in, with forces poised to crush anyone who threatens to be the least bit "different."

The truth probably lies somewhere between his complacency and her paranoia, but I wish I'd been able to follow up Hedgecock's remark, "We do have the concern down here that we don't become another San Francisco."

Local theatre groups are aware of the importance of Gay money to their ticket sales and fund-raising, and program accordingly. Of eight plays I saw in the course of San Diego's recent critics' convention, four had significant Gay elements. Carpenter's Children is a Gay company but they haven't produced a show in some time. "I keep them in my listings," Welton Jones, dean of San Diego critics, told me, "in the hope that they're just dormant. They've done some good work."

Sam Woodhouse, director of San Diego Repertory Theatre, which held an option for *The Murder of Tchaikowsky* for a few months, said the city has "a large, affluent Gay community. . . . We would love to do Bent, but someone has had the rights for the entire West Coast tied up for two years." He admits to a certain conservatism among his audience: "Whenever someone

(Continued on page 44)



Youth Shall Have Its Fling. Younger than the Prince and Tchaikowsky by at least twenty years, Michael McClure (L.) and Brian Lloyd portrayed them nonetheless in the ill-fated production *THE MURDER OF TCHAIKOWSKY*.

Directing his own work in its second production (the first was in San Antonio last fall), at San Diego's Bowery Theatre, Anderson has committed a suicide more certain than the one he ascribes to his central character. Anyone with a fresh perspective could have seen what was wrong with the play and done some necessary cutting and fixing.

A man and a woman serve as a Greek chorus, discussing past events which flow almost dreamlike across the stage. Tchaikowsky meets a handsome young prince and becomes smitten — nay, obsessed — with him. The boy practically seduces the willing composer, who uses him as the inspiration for his sixth and final symphony, the "Pathétique."

It is a time when "being oneself and being what one is must be secret." Homosexuality is a capital offense, as Modeste reminds his brother frequently. (It's one of those plays where nothing is said only once.) Tchaikowsky's lover is a prince but his brother is a royal pain in the ass.

The prince lives with his uncle and aunt, the grand duke and duchess. The aunt seems to promote his affair with the composer in the beginning and staunchly defends it later, but betrays it in between by showing the prince's diary to her husband. Compounding the suggestion that stupidity is a tragic flaw, the prince writes a letter to his uncle repudiating the affair. He means well, but removes his lover's last reason for living.

A tribunal of the composer's former classmates condemns him to die "for honor's sake" before he can be exposed, and pro-

and when the prince sheds his clothes and Tchaikowsky kneels to embrace him, confusing the master/slave roles they speak about.

The problems of the play are many, but worth trying to correct. Intended humor should be more clearly defined to get the audience laughing in the same places. Every gesture toward the prince is subject to misinterpretation. When the boy seems to enjoy being disciplined — at his uncle's orders — by a servant, his professed fidelity to Tchaikowsky becomes questionable.

Some of the flowery, poetic language would be easier to accept in a proscenium setting than an intimate theatre like the Bowery. And speaking of intimacy, that between the lovers might be enhanced if Peter Ilyich would address the prince by name.

I was intrigued by Tchaikowsky's declaration, "I want to become him," which may explain why some of us are attracted to younger men; and I appreciated some of the romantic dialogue — "In your work you portray a lifetime in an hour. It is the same in love." "I am polite and seem to exist, but the breath is gone from me. When will you give it back?" — and a love poem much like the one I wrote last year in a comparable situation.

The plot dramatizes an interesting theory about Tchaikowsky's death — even though the playwright insists on calling it "fantasy scenes for actors." It's worth developing a play around, and *The Murder of Tchaikowsky* has enough going for it to become that play.

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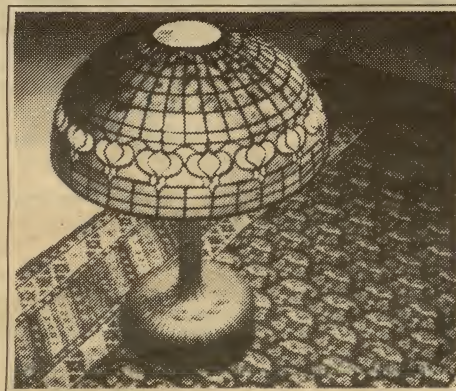
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have job skills. A third are college grads. The City & Gay Community have treated them shamefully. Jobs, food & clothing urgently needed. Take in an overnigher. Visit us and see the problem first-hand. St. Priapus Gay Rescue Mission, 583 Grove, SF 94102, 431-2188. St. Priapus Church. Religious eroticism in early Christian tradition. Services Wed., Thurs. 2 PM; Fri., Sat 8:45 PM. Send \$1 for sample copy newsletter.

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GOD IS GAY

On 17 May 1976, the Lord, God our Father, revealed Himself to me in a dream. He told me to "trust the Queer," who appeared as a young man in a leather jacket exuding intense homosexual lust. The Queer told me to invite you, our brothers, to join us.

Fr. John McNeil, S.J., who's written a book about homosexuality, and Methodist Bishop Wheatley are encouraged by this revelation. It has been transmitted to the Pope in Rome as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury and a host of others including Archbishop Quinn.

Please help fulfill this dream; pray for its proclamation by the Pope as Divine Revelation and for Liberation by its intercession!

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BOOK RACK

The Price You Pay

Rita Mae Serves The Spiritual Toll Of Balls And Banter

Sudden Death

by Rita Mae Brown
Bantam Books; hardcover, \$13.95

by Robert del Valle

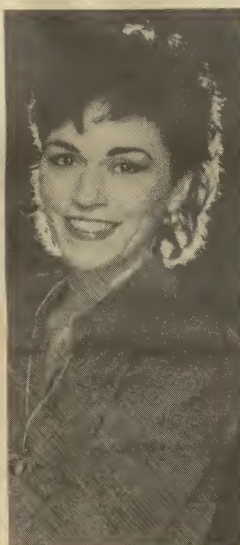
What would you expect if the sassiest Lesbian novelist in print brought out a book on women's tennis after having a near-scamandalous affair with the reigning queen of that sport? A juicy kiss-and-tell story with lots of balls and banter, right? Wrong. Rita Mae Brown's new novel *Sudden Death*, will disappoint anyone looking only for the cheap thrills of a *roman a clef*. She has attempted something much more serious and far-reaching than a gossip book based on her liaison with Martina Navratilova. The spiritual toll of corrupt social values on private Gay lives is her real theme. But while Rita Mae offers more than we bargained for here, she achieves less than we have come to expect of her talent.

At 24, Carmen Semana is a brilliant tennis player from Argentina poised for a shot at the Grand Slam. Her lover is Harriet Rawls, a 36-year-old professor of Greek religion who gives up her teaching career to be with Carmen on the tournament circuit. Their affair is an open secret until Susan Reilly, Carmen's former lover and arch-rival, leaks the story to a cagey reporter who provokes Harriet into blurring out the truth. When the truth breaks, Carmen is pressured to renounce her lover for the sake of her own career and women's tennis in general. She stands to forfeit millions in endorsement contracts and the sport may lose vital corporate support if she comes out publicly.

When it gets down to a question of choosing love over money Carmen falters. She says she learned a lesson from what happened to Billie Jean King. Harriet replies that she learned something herself as well: a lesson in "Lesbian hit-and-run... The woman who nurtures, who puts her own career second, is viewed as a slut or a gold-digger or an idiot." In this society

"the only relationship that counts is one between a man and a woman." But the most important truth she learned is, "you are as sick as you are secret." Polemically, this is the crux of the novel. If Gay people can't bear to come out, are the social rewards they may reap worth the psychic price they must pay? It's a very tough question.

That Carmen fails to rise to the challenge of her predicament with any courage comes as no surprise. Her capacity for heroic action is confined to the tennis court. Rita Mae debunks the myth that competitive games at the pro level demonstrate human achievement in any meaningful sense. Commercialization has robbed sport of its original function as a test of character. Instead, the chance to win big bucks fosters greed, hypocrisy and the desire to succeed at all



Rita Mae Brown

costs. Mere personal integrity will not sell designer sportswear. Carmen becomes a victim and emblem of this corruption by disguising her true sexual identity in order to save her career. What is surprising is that as readers we don't really care.

For all her seriousness in exposing the social forces which drive this pair apart, Rita Mae fails to create characters of sufficient substance to make us feel that something precious is being destroyed. We are told that they love each other, that "the emotional and sexual connection was the deepest either of them felt," but this crucial aspect of their relationship never really comes to life. The tennis scenes work better than the love scenes in this book. We need only recall the wonderfully vital portraits of women loving women in *Six of One*, or the devoted whores of *Southern Discomfort*, to realize how skimpy and one-dimensional the lovers in this novel seem by comparison.

Rita Mae's best creations to date have sprung from a comic framework. The change of tactics for this book seems to work against her natural gifts as a novelist. Indeed, the customary sparkle and outrageous wit we have come to expect in her books are scarcely evident here at all. The tone is as serious as her theme, but all too often a stern authorial voice creeps in to make points that would be better stated through character and action.

The most successful moments in this book occur in scenes between Harriet and her straight confidant, Jane Fulton. Here a lightness of touch allows the individual voices to emerge. Their friendship seems to be the untold love affair in this story. It is perhaps significant that Jane Fulton is modeled on the woman to whom the novel is dedicated. The preface tells us that Rita Mae undertook the writing of this book reluctantly, only to fulfill a promise made to this dying friend. That duty has now been discharged, and *Sudden Death* deserves to be read for what it has to say on its own terms. But for the kind of work that Rita Mae does best we will have to wait until her own vision motivates her to write.

Murder 'sur la Plage'

Cobalt

by Nathan Aldyne
Avon paperback; \$2.75

by Scott Treimel

In the days before the immune system provedincible, the bent crowd sought recklessness with almost Algeresque grit. No one could get enough irresponsibility. A weekend was hopelessly inadequate; and as for a week, well, sure, a guy could debauch a bit, but still one wanted more. A whole summer—that alone sufficed the saucy, and many hankered for a whole season in a resort town. I suspect many now hanker for a return to those days and will be happy to find a novel set in them and peopled with two sexy, fun protagonists. Such a world, I suspect they will claim, is to die for. And death is just what happens in Nathan Aldyne's *Cobalt*, a nimble enough murder mystery.

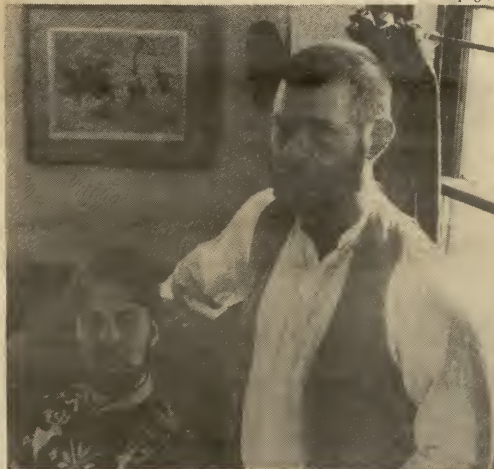
Daniel Valentine (Gay) and his favorite girlfriend Clarisse Lovelace (straight) sublet an apartment in Provincetown and work opposite on Commercial Street. He bartends; she peddles a nightmare of knickknacks at a crafts boutique. Together they suck down liquor and wisecrack

at others' expense. Often they go to decadent costume parties, such as the Garden of Evil Party which opens the book.

It is the height of hectic glamour, everyone joking and jockeying to get everyone else in

the sack. Attila the Hun cruises Charles Manson, Anita Bryant cruises Tokyo Rose. Jeff King (Cain) intoxicates libidos left and right (his eyes are cobalt blue) and he is nearly forgotten by the time Clarisse is walking home at dawn and discovers him entwined in seaweed and dead.

Murder is bad for resort town
(Continued on next page)



Dennis Schuetz (l.) and Michael McDowell are cumulatively known as "Nathan Aldyne," author of *COBALT*. (Photo: J. Preston)

BOOK RACK

'Official Handbook' Officially Unhanded

by Ron Bluestein

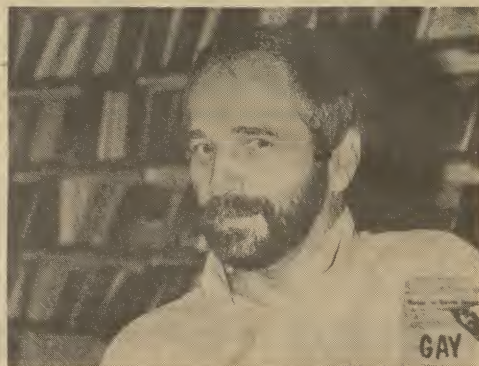
In *The First Official Gay Handbook* Hudson Brown follows the "Gay" development of his assumedly autobiographical persona from crib to career to corporation (no crypts in Hudson's "Gay" heaven, please), in the process outlining several typically "Gay" days. Although "Bruce" has twelve things to do between 8 and 9 AM; though he can read Ann Landers and Seventeen as he flosses, brushes, and gorges; though he can arrange flowers, order ice sculptures and accept love and money "with quiet satisfaction and fulfillment;" though Bruce can do most anything, not a second can he find for writing. Pity. A little writing practice snuck in, say, between donning his "pair of khakis, brown and white pencil-striped shirt with buttoned-down collar, brown heather crewneck and suede sport coat" (9:00 AM) and putting his "Gucci wallet" in his breast pocket (9:20 AM) might have spared Hudson needless and embarrassing revelations in print and the world a despicable and dishonest book.

"The Gay experience," Hudson tells us in the very first sentence, "is as unique as it is universal." What isn't? I can almost hear the valedictorian orating: "Graduating from college is an experience as unique as it is universal." As in an Agnes Nixon soap opera, "There is laughter. There is love" in Gay life, and Brown's little book is intended "to open the door for the unsure and the straight into the joyous realm of Gay humor." The what realm of Gay humor? The bite of parody in Rechy, the self-deprecation of Boys in the Band, the melancholy of Dancer from the Dance, and the stinging satire of Clark Henley's Butch Manual - all rendered homogeneously "joyous" by this cynosure for the unsure and the straight. Ronnettette believes that Mr. Brown should use his share of the profits from this book to buy Masses for the Unsure and the Straight presided over by Archbishop Quinn. Or perhaps he could sell the title to Agnes Nixon Herself: see the lives and loves of "The Unsure and the Straight" - on ABC.

If *Gay Handbook* was written as an amusement, I must state in all fairness that it made me laugh four times. You may find these mild chuckles on pages 25, 43, 94, and 132, but since the laughs are purely personal and idiosyncratic, I won't take up space quoting them. On

the other 160 pages you will find lists (of clothes, television shows, pets, wines, timetables, drag queens, furniture, hotels) and recipes and more lists (of magazines, colleges, careers, brunches, films, songs, drugs and "talk topics"). On the road to maturation, Bruce does not discover racism (he's white), sexism (all his girl friends are boys), poverty (Mommy buys him things), angst (he achieves the highest score in the history of Oscar Wilde U. cheerleading try-outs), or homophobia (Daddy is one of the unsure and straight, but he capitulates when he sees how happy and fulfilled Bruce and Jean-Pierre are in their asset-pooling love and gives them a Company). Bruce does discover Bloomingdale's, the Pines, and Louis Vuitton, who, as I once told a well-heeled bore at the Pines, makes lovely luggage and rotten conversation.

Around page 77 the rantings



1955 Meets 1982. Author Hudson Brown at a recent signing appearance at the Walt Whitman Bookstore. His *GAY HANDBOOK* stands in unchanging piles next to continually disappearing stacks of *THE BUTCH MANUAL*.

of this small-minded materialistic provincial started to rattle Ronnettette, but I keep on reading to find out what was the key to this book, Brown's reason for writing it. I didn't have to read it at all to discover why Turnbull & Willoughby published it. "In the past two years over 5 million copies of various 'official handbooks' have been gobbled up by the American public," the publishers ad gobbles excitedly, and it takes no great psychological acumen to deduce their prayer that America, with its indiscriminate appetite, will gobble up their little moon-dropping, Hudson Brown. The reason Turnbull & Willoughby published Hudson's opus was money and not enough sophistication to realize that Hudson was not sophisticated enough.

But oh look at what Ron-

nettette found, here on page 138: "Ever since he was a tot, Bruce has had a thing for things." Oh, so that's why Hudson's book is a list of possessions. Maybe the baby Bruce didn't know butterflies from Butterfield's, but big Hudson does, and I'll bet he's got one helluva shopping list ready for his royalties. Could it be that the publishers and the author both want the book for money? Could the common denominator for all these disparate lists be that they take up enough space on paper to be sold as a book?

But look here, too, on page 116. I knew it wasn't just money. "For all his calculated cruising," Hudson modestly writes, "Bruce knows in his heart of hearts that he will probably meet the real Mr. Right when he least expects. Serendipity shall prevail." The *Gay Handbook* is Hudson's "heart of hearts" revealed, pure fantasy, the simplest wish-fulfillment. I can find no other explanation for such cloying outbursts as: "Bruce's complexion has never been more glowing, his smile

more sparkling than when he and Jean-Pierre talk to each other with their eyes. Jean-Pierre touches Bruce's G-spot as no man ever has."

Writing like Mr. Brown's is so materialistic. It is day-dreaming out loud, and these particular day-dreams uncover a thoroughly conventional monster of manipulation and materialism. He is very wise to pinpoint his audience as the unsure and the straight because this claptrap could not be peddled to the Gay audiences of any large metropolitan center.

Tell you what Hudson - I will forget all about *The Gay Handbook* if you forget about it, start reading Edmund White, Joan Didion, and both of Mrs. Woolf's Common Reader's, change your name from Hudson Brown to Forrest Green, and start all over again.

want this disclosure to be so familiar it annoys you. You want your best girlfriend to land the Italian dish of a policeman so you can hear him through the bedroom wall. You want to eat dinner in the fanciest restaurant in town and then have it on the house because you are so charming.

Nathan Aldyne writes a brisk story in an agreeable tone. Even his narrator wants in on the fun, so he sometimes forgets he is indifferent and chimes in with his own wit. This narrator champions that adage about clothes and the man. You see few faces in *Cobalt* but you see a lot of clothes. An elderly woman, for example, buys a ceramic clown from Clarisse. It is only a detail to make the store believable, but instead of an utterance or a

physical idiosyncrasy, this elderly woman exists only by way of a puce blouse with matching synthetic pants. Angel Smith is "swathed in a full-length lime green poncho." The Prince wears "birch-heeled sandals . . . white silk designer shorts, a Kelly green tank top, and a dozen thin gold bangles on each wrist." Also: "A white rubber skullcap with green stars protected his hair against the dust." Characterization by clothes is a limited convention and *Cobalt's* characters are a bit pinched by it.

The novel is nevertheless an amusing balance of wit and suspense, and if your vacation this summer lacks the good old pre-AIDS debauchery, *Cobalt* might sublimate the good old urge.

S. Treimel

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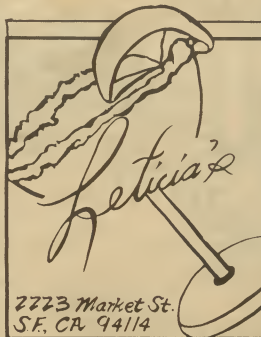
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'Nice Boys' Who Brutalized Russell Mills are Sentenced



The two men who brutalized Russell Mills, a 17-year-old gay man, were sentenced to 10 years in prison each for the attack. The judge said the men showed no remorse and that the attack was premeditated. Mills was hospitalized for several weeks after the attack, which took place in a public restroom.



Gay 'Wedding' Halted

Episcopal Bishop Angers Flock
Protest in San Francisco



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Tchaikowsky

(Continued from page 39)

says 'fuck' in a show we lose five subscribers . . . but we did a play with a nude man and woman onstage throughout and we sold out all six performances."

"There's a large Gay constituency here and they turn out en masse for events that interest them," according to Kit Goldman, managing producer of the Gaslamp Quarter Theatre. "We did *The Haunted Host* by John Patrick, a Gay play, and did very well with it." Their current show, Noel Coward's *Design for Living*, is about two men and a woman who couple sexually in every conceivable combination before ending up as a ménage à trois. They do rather a boring job, but they don't soft-pedal the play's Gay side. Curiously, the small theatre, which gives "executive producer" credit to major corporate sponsors, got Bank of America to finance *Design for Living*. Didn't they balk at the content? "They didn't read the script!" Goldman laughed.

The Bowery Theatre Company was formed about a year ago and presented its first play four months later. Until they could keep their stage busy they sublet it to San Diego Public Theatre, a left-wing troupe which still borrows equipment from the Bowery.

Kim McCallum, whose background is in acting and directing, is artistic director of the new company. "His father, Sandy McCallum, himself a formidable actor, is president of the board of directors. They perform in the basement of a rundown hotel in a small space which is quite adequate for certain shows.

John Stuart Anderson hails from England. Thirty years ago, he said, he was "the first English mime in modern times." He worked with a repertory company and, when that folded, began doing one-man shows. Not limiting himself to a single subject such as Mark Twain, Anderson has built up a repertoire over the years which ranges from the Bible to "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and includes shows about Shakespeare, Lord Byron, the Decameron, and Sherlock Holmes. He does two or more pieces in an evening.

Coming out when it wasn't as easy as it is today, Anderson had a bad time as the only openly Gay man in his college. He still doesn't like to discuss that period. "It never occurred to me that it was important to make a statement," he told me. "I just was." He said he's written about 100 plays and as many solo pieces. Some have Gay subjects and some don't, but he's always written in hopes of helping all kinds of people to understand each other.

Anderson's life partner, John Church, known as "Ricky," is also English. He works in theatrical booking and promotion. They've been together "27 years — maybe longer."

High Fidelity magazine detailed the poison theory of Tchaikowsky's death in its February 1981 issue. Gary Hundermark of the National Gay Archives showed the article to John Stuart Anderson, and the seed was planted. *The Murder of Tchaikowsky*, Anderson announced, would be "the first in a cycle of four fantastic plays entitled *Memories of the Mind*," all dealing with composers each of whom "was known to or admired by the others." The other three are Wagner, Berlioz, and Dame Ethel Smyth.

The playwright says he does not consider *The Murder of Tchaikowsky* strictly a "Gay play." He termed it "Gay-oriented but absolutely classic." It's first production, by the Actors Theater of San Antonio,

was done over the Bonham Exchange, a Gay bar, with Gays in "all the major parts," according to Anderson. The critical reaction was not good.

Meanwhile, the script was sent to major theatres around the country; and while none of them chose to produce the play, many sent back encouraging comments, certainly far more than a form rejection.

John Stuart Anderson and Ricky Church moved to San Diego last fall. Anderson did some of his solos shows at the Bowery Theatre and, while San Diego Rep was wavering about their option, showed the Tchaikowsky script to Kim McCallum.

"I didn't see it as a 'Gay play,'" McCallum said later. He saw it as a good play and wanted to produce it. He offered Anderson a date next September with the idea of directing the play himself, but said the playwright was eager to have the show on in May so the visiting critics could see it. In that case, McCallum told him, YOU can direct it. McCallum was already committed to staging *Key Exchange* in



Playwright John Stuart Anderson

that time period, and gave Tchaikowsky the traditionally slow performance nights of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, making it clear that his own show would get preferential treatment.

There are charges and counter-charges about promises made and broken, most of which are probably true. No one, including Anderson himself, makes any great claims for his abilities as a director; but he states that once he was given the job he should have been allowed to carry it out without interference.

McCallum's position is that Anderson misrepresented himself in assuming the directorial post. Unfortunately, the artistic director was too busy with *Key Exchange* to pay attention to Tchaikowsky until it was nearly ready to open. "I saw the first tech rehearsal," McCallum said, "and said, 'My God, we're in trouble.'" He didn't say this to Anderson, however, until after "a few more runthroughs."

What happened onstage, McCallum said, "I don't recognize as having to do with the play that I read . . . My main mistake was not nipping it in the bud. This was mainly due to my inexperience and not being able to handle the confrontations that go with the job."

Welton Jones blasted the play in the *San Diego Union*, saying it would have worked better if they'd played it for laughs. Anderson and Church fired off letters in response, Church defending the play and Anderson accusing the critic of ignorance, incompetence, sleeping through the performance, and being a drag queen.

Gay critics were kinder but hardly less negative toward the production in the final analysis. I spoke to several people, Gay and non-Gay, all of whom felt that *The Murder of Tchaikowsky* has great potential which was untapped in the Bowery production. These same people

were less positive toward *Clap Your Hands*, a play written and directed by Ellis Rabb which we saw at the Old Globe Theatre the following night. We were all ready to write that one off forever.

Rumors were in the air before the curtain went up on what would be the fifth and final performance of *The Murder of Tchaikowsky*. Ricky Church heard from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays that when they had called to reserve a block of seats for the following week they'd been told the play was closing.

Kim McCallum sent word to the cast that he wanted to meet with them after the show. One of them later quoted him as saying he was closing the play "in the best interests of the theatre." He didn't remember saying that when we asked him about it, but admitted he might have used that phrase. His point, he insisted, was that the production values were so bad that a worthy script had been rendered unrecognizable. "With one exception," McCallum claimed, "I got a hug or a handshake from every member of that cast."

"I like John Stuart," said Brian Lloyd, who played Tchaikowsky. "I think he's written a warm, beautiful play . . . He was just the wrong choice to direct it. He couldn't distance himself from it (to make the cuts that needed to be made)."

Anderson doesn't want to direct his play again, but he puts part of the blame for its failure on the cast, most of whom were not Gay and none of whom, he charged, wanted to be thought Gay. This would explain the lack of commitment in the love scenes. The spanking episode didn't start out funny, he said; but Michael McClure, who played the prince, lost the "spiritual quality" he had showed in rehearsals which made the scene shocking instead of amusing.

Although the play has no pretensions to historical accuracy, Anderson avoided inventing details to flesh out the vague character of the prince. "I thought of him as 'Misha' for myself," McClure said, sharing my puzzlement that no first name had been given to him. As to his age, "It's not recorded," Anderson said. "I would say make him whatever age you want him to be . . . I thought of him as 24 because I'm not drawn to anyone younger than 24 . . . Many people want him to be 15."

McClure, who is about 24, thought the character was "about 19." I would guess him younger to explain his line in defense of their affair, "In Greece it would have been understood;" but if the playwright doesn't know, it's a moot point.

The epilogue contains some further ironies. Anderson, who added lines to the play in rehearsal when he should have been cutting, says he has written a new version of Tchaikowsky which runs only half as long as the first and has six characters instead of 13.

McCallum, whom Anderson accuses of closing the play due to homophobia, still likes the original script and still harbors thoughts of directing it: "I would be willing to put the damn play on again."

Somewhere in the cosmos floats an epic piece of Gay-themed theatre. Here on earth there are wounds that must heal, wounds caused by the head-on collision of two mighty egos.

When the healing is complete and the universe has resumed its natural order, you may have a chance to see *The Murder of Tchaikowsky* at your local theatre.

S. Warren



Rainer Werner Fassbinder (L) is the subject of a documentary on his last days by Wolf Gremm, to be shown Friday, June 24. The completion of the film festival includes these films:

Thursday June 23, Trocadero

7:30 PM: The 1983 S.F. Lesbian/Gay Video Festival. Works by Gay artists from across the U.S. and Japan will be viewed on a 30-foot screen.

10 PM: The program will evolve into live performance and dancing with music by Raul Thomas. A live studio setup will be accessible to extroverted guests, although established performance artists are scheduled. Scripted spontaneity and costume motivation by guests is encouraged. Contact John Calaly, 861-0843.

Friday June 24, Roxie

6 PM: RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER: THE LAST WORKS (Germany, 1982). Alcohol, drugs, and hard work are revealed in Wolf Gremm's personal documentary of Fassbinder's last jobs as an actor and as director of Querelle.

THE SOUND OF FAST RELIEF (Germany, 1982), is the U.S. premiere of a "psychograph" of the relations between men in patriarchal society, in the adventures of a dreamer.

8 PM: PAULINE'S BIRTHDAY (Germany, 1979). A tragicomic meditation on the quality of Gay life, this documentary watches a Gay S/M theatre rehearse a show in the basement

of a Hamburg bar.

10 PM: A PLACE WITHOUT LIMITS (Mexico, 1977). A transvestite and his daughter love the same man who cannot face his love of men.

Saturday June 25, Roxie

2 PM: Australian shorts, both Lesbian and Gay.

4 PM: Super-8. A program of super-8 films from across the country.

6 PM: SHE EVEN CHEWED TOBACCO. A slide presentation by the Lesbian and Gay History Project about women passing as men during the turn of the century in San Francisco.

8 PM: MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER. Allan Berube's famous slide presentation about Lesbians and Gays during W/W II.

Chorus Soloists

(Continued from page 37)

panied most of the singers as well as played "The Wedge" organ fugue by J.S. Bach. He was a little uneven, in quality, but he certainly has stamina.

The other artists of the pro-

10 PM: CASTA DIVA (The Netherlands, 1982). A U.S. premiere which examines a man in his relationship with his body: while washing, dressing, undressing, before and after exertion; but always in solitude.

Midnight: CITY OF LOST SOULS (Germany, 1983). The U.S. premiere of Rosa von Praunheim's look at underbelly Berlin. Rock singers, transvestites, Jews, stripteasers, Southern belles, the demi-monde, transsexuals all living in the same rooming house and putting on their acts. Even Jayne County.

Sunday June 26, Roxie

6 PM: Four documentaries. Warhol at work in ANDY MAKES A MOVIE and SUPERARTIST: ANDY WARHOL, the artist narrating DAVID HOCKNEY'S DIARIES, and ERTE.

8 PM: BORN IN FLAMES.

10 PM: THE DEPUTY.

gram were Rick Slavsky, Donald Leighton, Perry George, John Musselman (another beautiful voice), Raymond H. Verdugo, Don Frueh, and Kevin E. Ames (adorable).

An incredibly varied program of good to excellent performances.

SPORTS

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

A Four-Way Tie

As the CSL's first half of the season comes to a close, we have a four-way tie for first place in both divisions.

In the Julie Jordan Division it's the Hot & Hunkies and Jack's Happy Daze, and in the Bill Chapman Division it's the Mint and the Village. Of all these team leaders, I feel a need to mention how pleased everyone is to have Mark Gordon's rookie team, Hot & Hunky, in the league. Mark was looking for a team to play on and was talked into taking over as manager of the team. He had only a couple of rainy weeks to put the Hunkies together. They are excellent players and, more important, they are real gentlemen who fit in as if they have been with us for a long time.

In their latest victory, the Hunkies slipped past the Rainbow Cattle Co.'s excellent pitching by Richard Snow, a powerful homerun by James Con-

nelous, excellent fielding by Russ Zipkin, and the winning hit by Mark Gordon.

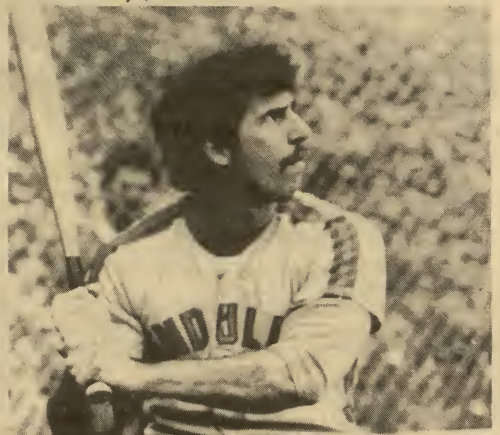
Jack's Happy Daze, which has been around for several years, have their best team in their CSL history.

Wayne O'Donnell, a handsome young seasoned veteran from the old Park Bowl team, is having his best year ever. Also, from Jack's excellent fielding and hitting by 1982 All Star Rudi DeGadillo and big hitter Sal Morales who hit two super homeruns.

Thanks to Jack of Jack's for the nice party at the bar.

I may sound like a broken record on the Mint's victory, but Mike Arbunich and Al Agolian are still shining for the Mint, both in hitting and fielding. Al was mentioned last week as a rookie. This is Al's second year in the league. I guess it's just his

(Continued on next page)



At the CSL's opening game this season, Mike Gray of the Pendulum Pirates awaits the pitch. (Photo: Rink)

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Summertime 8-Ball Action

In the San Francisco Pool Association, the lull between seasons is anything but. With seven weeks remaining before Fall season begins, there are still five major titles to be won, plus the league's participation in Gay Day festivities (buy a drink from the SFPA!), and a big party/awards presentation at The Oasis on July 9.

This Saturday the 16 finalists in the Spring '83 Most Valuable Player tournament will shoot it out for over \$300 in prize money plus four trophies, the action beginning at 1 PM at The Stables. The tournament represents a first on two counts: It's the league's initial MVP contest, each team sending a player to the tournament, who splits among the team whatever prize money he or she wins. There were entries from 26 of the 40 teams. It's also the first time Coors has sponsored a Gay event. Along with their local distributor, California Beverage, they provided a \$1,000 donation to fund the contest. They've donated an equal amount for next season's MVP tourney as well. (The Coors boycott, or its ghost, is still with us: A stash of boycott leaflets mysteriously appeared at The Stables last Saturday.)

Another tournament, the league's "fun" tournament, is coming up on July 5. It's the league's only partners tourney, partners assigned by winning percent. Players don't know who they'll be paired with until the entire field is signed up, at which time the top rated player is matched with the lowest rated player, 2nd with next lowest, and so on. Hence the name, Hi-Lo Tournament. The idea is to give the lower average players a shot

at winning. It's at The Stables, 7:30 PM, July 5.

The third victor yet to be decided is the championship team—unless Febe's Dons won their match Tuesday night. If the Stallion Stampede won, they will play a race to nine this coming Tuesday at The Bear, beginning at 7:30.

The fourth and fifth titles are the biggies and will be decided July 17 at Hollywood's Four Star. It's West Coast Challenge VII, and the Tri-City team and individual championships will

be decided. To date, SF has produced five championship teams, LA one, and San Diego is looking for its first. In individual competition, the three cities are even, each with two winners.

Vancouver update: The billiards portion of the Vancouver Summer Gay Games (July 29 & 30) will be a 64-player field, entry fee of \$35, and a guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000 plus Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. Further info at J-O-E P-O-O-L.

Also on July 29 & 30, as part of the SF County Fair, an 8-ball tournament is being held at Moscone Center. Entry fee is \$20 for men, \$15 for women, and the field is filling up—contact Debby Aarens (530-9135) for info.



Cory Iwatsu, playing for the Park Bowl Boys, is among the 16 finalists in this Saturday's Most Valuable Player Tourney at The Stables. (Photo: gene)

(Continued from previous page)

great playing that has made him more outstanding.

Reflecting on the first half of the season, it is by far the best in our 11-year history. Good leadership, good competition, and especially good friendships between all the diverse factions of straights, Gays, and bisexuals which make the Community Softball League one of the finest leagues in San Francisco and the country.

To all CSL's players, enjoy

your Gay Freedom Day and Independence Day off; see you on July 10.

SCORES FOR JUNE 19

Bunkhouse	15	Slow Rush	10
Hot & Hunky	5	Rainbow	3
Mint	11	Nap's	8
Jack's	16	Acme	5
Cinch	15	Pipeline	3
Cinch	7	Acme	4
Jack's	10	Pipeline	6

STANDINGS

Bill Chapman Division

Mint	7	1
Village	7	1

Rainbow	4	4
Cinch	3	5
Slow Rush	3	5
Acme	0	8

Julie Jordan Division

Hot & Hunky	6	2
Jack's	6	2
Bunkhouse	4	4
Nap's	3	5
Pipeline	3	5
BATS	2	6

There are no games scheduled for Gay Pride Day, June 26, or Independence Day, July 4. ■

R. Soto

GayRun '83 Sign-Ups

GayRun '83 will take place Sunday, July 17 at 10 AM in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. This is the fourth running of the annual 5 and 10-kilometer races.

All proceeds from this year's GayRun will go to benefit AIDS patients. The race is being organized and sponsored by the San Francisco FrontRunners, a running club whose members are primarily Gay men and Lesbians.

Over 600 runners competed in last year's race, with the top times in the 10-K at 33:05 for the

men, and 39:56 for the women. Race organizers expect those times to be improved upon in this year's race. Both the 5 and 10-K races begin at the Polo Fields and wind through lower Golden Gate Park.

Entry blanks for GayRun '83 may be received by mail by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to GayRun '83, Suite 6L200, 1550 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. The entry fee is \$10 with T-shirt and \$7 without. Race refreshments will be provided by Perrier and medical assistance by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. Volunteers wishing to

help with GayRun '83 should contact Bob Edwards at (415) 824-8740.

GayRun is traditionally popular with the Gay Community and has been voted the Outstanding Gay Athletic Event at the Cable Car Awards for the last two years. With this year's proceeds going to help AIDS patients, race organizers are hoping for a large turn-out. Donations will also be accepted from individuals who want to help those with AIDS but do not want to run either race. ■

THE MINT & SUTTER'S MILL

would like to thank everyone for their support & generosity during The Great Tricycle Race, a benefit for AIDS/KS research.

Metz - Tim - Harry

Sports Clubs

Different Spokes Bicycle Club, Sunday June 26. Club members are encouraged to ride in the Parade contingent. Info: Bob, 824-7145.

★ ★ ★

FrontRunners. June 26, 9 AM, Golden Gate Bridge (3.6 miles, rolling). Meet at unpaved parking lot just east of the toll plaza off Lincoln Blvd. Remember to turn off before going over the bridge! Spectacular city views. We'll return in time for the Parade. ■

BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

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MY KNIGHTS IN LEATHER

No Stone Left Unturned

KARL STEWART

KNIGHTS ALIGHT

Celebrating our progress in Gay Freedom and packing a lot of bucks, prayers, and tears to assure a healthy future has not only kept a lot of us hoppin' but promises to provide a wild weekend, too. The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Fest is reeling away all over town. Febe's has added new dimensions to the fun scale with a week-long 17th Anniversary. Tonight the Drummer folks begin the end of a long search for "Mr. 'D' 83" at the Brig and tomorrow at the Troc (we hear that Gwen Jonae might be debuting her newest delights on Mr. Collier's stage that night), and of course you'll want to meet the winner poolside at the Oasis Saturday at 3 PM. Actually, Saturday night is relatively calm, except for Paul Manenti's party space, SOMA, at 301 8th Street (at Folsom). He has gathered some of the hottest local club talent for a party beginning at 10 PM for \$12. Savages will rock

with Black, Blue, and Shades of Gray (A Full Moon Party) which will warm the hearts of a few good men. Post-parade festivities will magnify our harmony with music and include these as major events:

BROOKS HALL: Dick Collier and Company's Metropolis with Grace Jones, the Abbaesque sound of Technique, diva Linda Hopkins; 3 PM; \$15 advance, \$18 door.

GALLERIA: David Bandy's Conceptual Entertainment, with The Flirts; 4 PM; \$12 advance, \$15 door.

I-BEAM: Gay Freedom Day Tea Dance with Sylvester; 5 PM; \$5 with tea dance pass, \$7 without.

SHOTS IN THE NIGHT

One way to fight AIDS, says Jim Gilman (ex-Caldronite), is to learn to pray properly. Jim is out to do just that with a metaphysical healing course beginning June 29, 8 PM, at the

Church of the Advent on Fell near Gough.

You may want to know that it's Robert Duval who is the genius behind the grub at Joe Ellis' Iron Duke/Trinity. Besides eating, overlooking Bush and Market Streets is a trip.

Bartender of the Year Michael Bowman has landed firmly on his feet at Castro Station. Mucho changes Mr. Ostlund has made in the Station, including a new pool table and manager Steven. All in aid of three years with a shingle out on Town Square (Castro). Congratulations, guys.

"The A Group" was certainly in attendance at Ms. Gina's wild send-off at the Oasis last Saturday night. Butch outdid

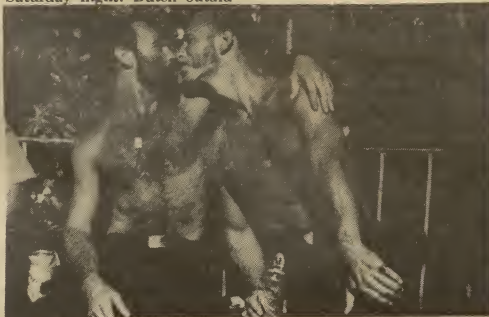
himself this time.

Some folks are calling the CMC the "California Money Club," but not me. I think the 85 bucks for their run is because Dave Sarathain is so cute. It costs a lot to look that hot.

Steve Loignon is back on the plank (Hi, Sweet Lips) at the Arena Tuesday through Friday, cocktail shift. Teeth that white and tits that tight have also got to cost a lot! We call it the Steve Studly Show. Right next door, the Canary Island men have added a much expanded patio. With weather this incredible, lunch there is a must.

★ ★ ★

Something which is, of course, inevitable is growing old. There



Summer Sensual. Taking a break from watching the Dog Show, this couple found puckering more fun than poaching. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

will be a conference on that subject Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26, at San Francisco State. This is specially aimed at Gay folks and is sponsored by The National Association for Gay and Lesbian Gerontology. For info leave your name and so forth at 552-3054 or write to NALGG, 1290 Sutter, Suite 8, San Francisco, CA 94109.

If you want to be alert to the past as well as the future you might look into the Gay History Project at Valencia Rose, June 21, 22, and 28. They begin at 8 PM and require donations of \$4 and \$5.

Last week I mistakenly reported that the *Gay Areas Directory* was owned by straights. Alfred Cassidy of the *Directory* informs me that it is a publicly-owned company but that the President, Vice President, and Board of Directors are all Gay. The *Directory's* parent company, Gay International, Inc., will celebrate its birth at the San Franciscan Hotel on Tuesday, June 28, from 7-9 PM. The mayor and some supervisors will attend, and you're invited too. It's a free cocktail reception.

★ ★ ★

Wedding Bell Blues: Leather Daddy Philip is reunited with Bryan of Haight Street's Continental Savings. We hear, too, that the Eagle's Stella has a new hot dog. Hothouse's rep to Mr.

(Continued on page 51)



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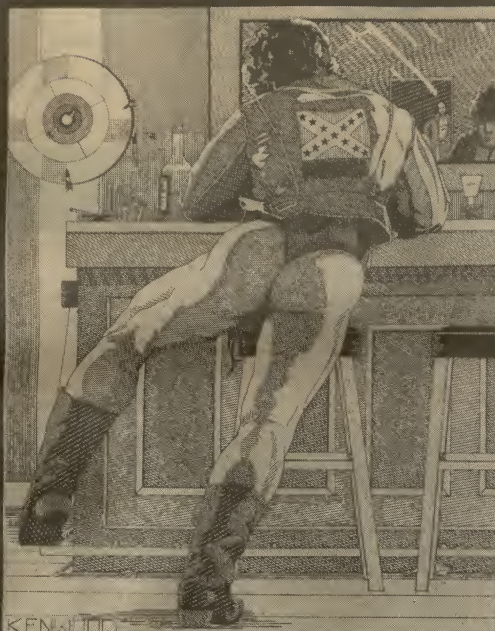
DOTS OF EROTICA

When Ken Wood isn't creating his meticulously stippled pen and ink drawings he says things like this:

"I arrived in San Francisco on August 27, 1980. I know the exact moment I crossed the Golden Gate Bridge — it was 8:46 P.M. I headed directly for the Castro.

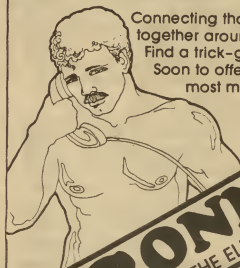
"I'd come from Richmond, Virginia, where I was born in 1949. While there I did portraits in oil and earned a degree in Communications Arts and Designs. That's a fancy name for graphic arts. I hadn't done any erotic art before coming here. That sort of thing just doesn't go in Richmond.

"And I wanted to do erotic art. The dots in my work remind me of the fragmentation of Gay life. There are things that bind us together — those are the subject matter of my images — but they are only a succession of dots.



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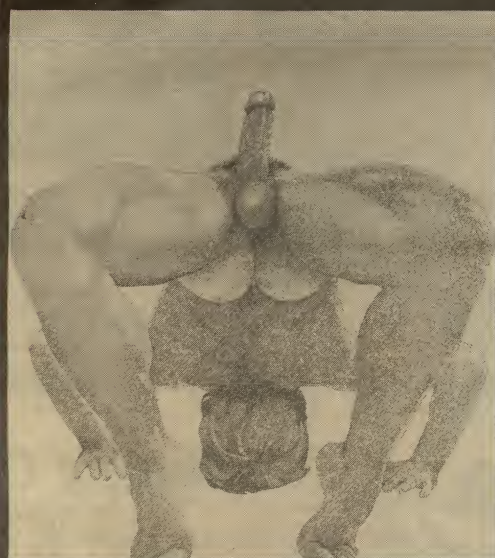
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"Instead of one type of man, I try to show different types. I don't consider leather a fantasy. It's a reality. The leather is just an image, and is a catalyst for the fantasy. It's the same with tight jeans, a jockstrap, or total nudity.

"I have two shows up now. There's eight pieces at The Stables until July 20. Another show, with more erotic pieces, opens Thursday, June 24, at Savages with a reception beginning at 8 P.M. I'm creating a brand new pastel, an homage to masturbation, for this show. The show will be at Savages awhile.

"I love doing what I'm doing."

So do the rest of us, Ken. ■



RIVETS

On Parade

In a city such as this where art and style rule, the competition can be fierce if you set out to become the "ultimate" anything. Everyone, it seems, is always on parade.

We've seen high glamour, high camp, great performance and great outrage where talent was absent.

There's a cop in town who I suspect of falling into the latter category, in a weak sort of way. This officer was apparently out to distinguish himself as the ultimate peace officer, an ambitious goal. His valiant efforts on behalf of all of us South of Market last Friday night cannot go unnoticed.

He was obviously no fool. With so many of his fellow officers plugging away at the murderers, rapists, fag-bashers and burglars who abound in this city, he apparently concluded that he'd need a novel approach to secure recognition towards his goal.

He was apparently determined to single-handedly bring to an end the biggest threat to all citizens of this fair city — the possibility of improperly parked motorcycles.

Setting aside the probability that some willy-nilly judge would point out that the bikes were actually parked quite legally, this fine example of our men in blue struck deep, hard and fast.

I've had reports that he was sighted at the Eagle, the Brig, the Arena and the Ambush.

Meanwhile, although inconvenienced, South of Market leathermen picked up where they left off.

As announced, the Eagle hosted the christening of photog Vernon Stewart's new bike Saturday afternoon.

While he lounged, somewhat apprehensively, astride his bike, Vernon was hand-fed the bike's symbolic cherry by J.C., who officiated.

Then, with a bottle of champagne burst over the bike, and two cases of cold beer poured, squirted and otherwise emptied onto both the bike and Vernon by several of the rowdy group that had assembled for the function, the bike became officially

the Eagle I.

A couple of steam-baths later (administered enthusiastically by J.C.), both bike and owner were squeaky clean. The owner didn't exactly stay that way, however. The assumption that he was into fluid entertainment was so rampant that he was wet for hours. At one point he was cuffed to a sturdy beam on the bar's patio for easy access.

I should point out that he did protest.

Understand that the Catacombs has added yet another gynecologist's table. So handy.

Tonight (June 23) the Brig is hosting a bash for *Drummer Magazine's* regional examples of "ultimate" leathermen. That should be something of a parade itself.

Steven Roberts, 2nd Runner-up at the International Mr. Leather contest held last month in Chicago, tells me he's really looking forward to greeting the Drummer contestants.

As the Brig's representative at the international contest, Steven's also San Francisco Mr. Leather, a title that puts him in the Drummer contest. He says he's also looking forward to that.

That event will be held at the Trocadero Friday at 9 p.m. The all-night contest/bash is open to all comers for fifteen bucks.

By virtue of all this action, those of you who are newcomers to San Francisco can see why it's necessary to have an annual parade known as the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade.

We need a mega-parade just to show off all the winners of the daily mini-parades and the periodic maxi-parades (like the Dog Show two weeks ago). When that first float starts down the parade route Sunday at 11 A.M. We'll all be winners.

We also need a mega-parade as a statement to people like the cop I mentioned above.

We won't tolerate petty harassment on any scale.

We, too, have boot heels. ■

TOM ROGERS

Cute, cuddly and kinky

Meet Teddy. He thinks he's hotter than the average bear. Sure, the greeting card with his photo is the fastest selling card of the year, but does one modeling job make you a star?

Sure, he's cute and cuddly with his soft tan fur and his big eyes. And kinky in his handmade leathers — each piece a perfect miniature of a full-size leather garment.

But I think his head's getting a bit swollen because, just between you and me, he's lucky if he's a foot tall.

Anyway, here he is. You want him? You can have him!

(Available at Mr. S. Leathers, 227 Seventh St., S.F. - 863-7764; after the parade at "Metropolis" or by mail order (form below)).



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Bathing In Bubbly. Vern Stewart and his new bike are enthusiastically and wetly christened on the Eagle patio. When the beer was gone the situation got even wetter.

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KARNAL KNOWLEDGE

Falcon's Penis Paean

KARR

What a week for the arts it has been. I saw Bernard Shaw in Berkeley, Offenbach on Turk Street, the incredible Ethyl Eichelberger accompanied by performance painter Lou Rudolph, and storyteller Robert Chesley accompanied by performance clicker Mark I. Chester. I was nearly overcome by this inundation of theatre stimulation. It wouldn't be surprising at all to find that my thoughts never once strayed from performance to pecker.

But they did. Maybe it was the waxing moon (which will be full the evening before the Gay Parade), the Summer Solstice or just the warm weather. But the Call of the Penis got to me, and I whacked about town with my usual fervor. Ah, penis! What mysterious power, what unquestionable force draws me ever back to the dong divine? I was warned as a teenager not to be a slave to my cock, but to no avail. While not totally enslaved, I am ensnared, bewitched,



Steve Sprague

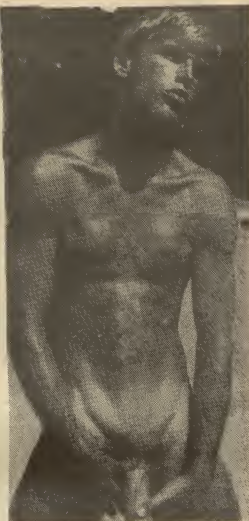
bothered, and beside as many of them as I can manage. When stimulation from the other arts is strong my phallic fantasies grow stronger, reaffirming my belief in the sexual root of all our impulses.

If you share my adulation for cock and understand without blushing my paean to the penis, you'll undoubtedly find Falcon Studio's last videotape release an indispensable adjunct to your worship. They not only serve

this adoration of cock by presenting eight of the most beautiful I've seen in a while, but they have managed — *quel miracle* — to find them attached to an unusually attractive bunch of men. Falcon's product is always good. They're one of the few porn producers whose films I'd buy without previewing and not worry about getting my money's worth. Yet in Video Pac 31 Falcon has outdone themselves. I can't find a favorite among the four segments that make up the video. There's no letdown, no lulls, in this surfeit of sex and physical beauty. It's a great addition to my video collection. I haven't tired of screening it for myself or for my friends' delight when they visit. It has staying power.

Falcon Video Pac 31 is titled *Huge Two* and ostensibly showcases Lee "Huge" Ryder. Truthfully, his segment is only ten minutes long, and though impressive, seems overrated. It ends abruptly. I could watch a lot more of this flat, lean, hard body with its incredibly solid and long cock. Anybody who can shove half his dick into somebody's ass and still have enough left over to wrap two fists around is impressive, and Ryder complements that wonder with the delights of his swimmer's build, handsome face, and his meltingly blue eyes. His partner is equally attractive, beefier, and offers obligingly receptive and lovingly formed ass cheeks for Ryder to work upon and within. It's a star coupling all right, worthy of top billing, and Falcon could have given us more of it. I twitch when I think of the footage left on the cutting room floor.

What would have been the grand finale of any other movie is merely the appetizer here, for the men in the video only get more attractive, huge, and able-bodied. The Biker and the Gymnast is the second tale on the video, and this stars Wolf Kentner (here known as "Peter Hanson") in his film debut. J. Brian's photo-sets of Wolf have been featured in these pages, and Wolf's film appearance secures his stardom. Talk



Lee "Huge" Ryder

about *elan vital*! His body ripples with muscular youth and his handsome biker friend does several of Wolf's orifices proud. Filmed on a lushly wooded hillside beside an inviting cabin, the color is verdant and the sexual atmosphere heady. Wolf lives up to his name when he wolfs down the overly ample cock of his master.

The third sequence is *Overload* and by this stage of the game that's just the state you'll be in. My eyes pop in amazement each time I see the young hitchhiker in this one open the pants of star Steve Sprague. Ah, penis gloriosus! Sprague has a well-built body, creamy skin, and a sturdy cock. This roadside tryst is good, undercut slightly by Sprague's immovable, though handsome, face and his mirrored sunglasses which hide his eyes. Once again, though, it's a beautiful, strong scene, the third huge in a row. Definitely an overload.

Muscle and Sweat is the finale, and stars the beefy athlete Doug Miller. What a beauty! I'm in love and it isn't superficial. He jogs around the track, sweats his way into the bedroom where he surprises roommate Chuck Powell, who's jacking off. As in the other sequences, this moves into a suck and fuck. I was on my knees worshipping Miller's elegant huskiness. His breasts have the fulsome swell of the bounteous buns we saw on Mike Stoker in his tryst with Lee Ryder.

The color photography throughout is excellent, as is the camera work. We nearly always see what's pertinent, and we see it clearly. The cast members are not only beautiful and hugely hung, but sexually adept. What skill and craft in the sexual arts can be seen here, fully the equal of the stage stars that thrilled me in local performances all week. And Huge? Always. ■

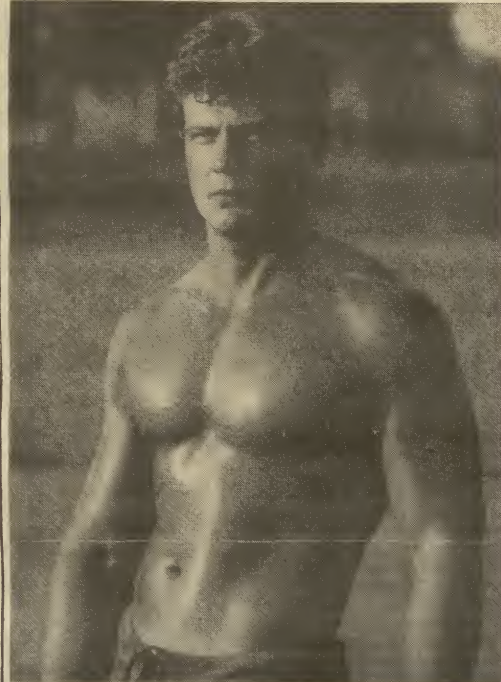
Huge Two is available as four 8mm films or as Video Pac 31 from Falcon Studio, P.O. Box 750, S.F., CA 94101.

Hung Stud

Paintings by Ramon Vidali are currently hung in the Stud. ■

Film Faggery

Gay and Sexist Film Stereotypes, an evening of film treasures including Charlie Chaplin in drag, will be presented at the Habitat, 18th and Sanchez Streets, on Saturday, June 25 at 8 PM. Info: 626-8039 ■



Doug Miller is the beautifully built star of the *MUSCLE AND SWEAT* segment of Falcon's "Huge Two."



Street Celebrations. As a partial benefit for the Shanti Project, which will receive 25¢ of each sale, photographer Shane Gearing is displaying and selling his photographs on the third floor of the Castro Market Place, on Market near Noe. This display includes more than 45 photographs of the variety and emotion that characterize the spirit of the Gay community's street celebrations. Photographer Gearing, an AIDS patient himself, lends strength and vitality to the community with his positive images and bright colors. The display and sale will continue until June 29.

Knights

(Continued from page 47)

International Leather, George M., has a glow on.

The Divine Ms. T has survived another crisis (not Collier's this time). Ariel Records is now Horizon Records; they are the latex peddlers behind Technique; I love it. Why is Martha's desk in Horizon's office instead of at the Troc?

Longtime purveyor of fine used threads, Worn Out West, will soon be opening another shop in the heart of Town Square, since we're on the subject of shingles. The rubber firemen's outfits may become very popular in the bathhouses.

Rising from the ashes (as in phoenix) is a wonderful blue-grey Victorian hotel on the site of the old Barracks. You must have noticed. This is the project of Joe Arcuri and George Mansfield, the studlets who own Bath Bazaar on Polk Street. "The Globe Hotel" (the original name of the Barracks) will be open for biz in mid-July and has sauna, jacuzzi, game room, sun deck, demi-kitchens, and monthly rates. Nice to know the old place is still in the family.

The wizards at Alchemy Party Service are whipping up great ideas for your celebrations. I hear Michael Kocina is a wizard in many fields.

What is this "Ernie for President" button floating about the MC community? The word is that the SFGDI's had a very festive "mutiny" at Pirate's Cove last weekend. Matt Brown will serve this year as their hostess — a new Miss GDI.

★ ★ ★

Keep your head in the clouds and your feet on the town. See



Love Among the Mongrels. This couple won no prizes at the Dog Show, but then they didn't bring a dog. We give a prize to them for this moment of quiet affection. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

you in the skins. Support condom conversion.

K. Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, 6/23: Febe's 17th Anniversary, 9pm, through 6/26.

Meet the Meat. Mr. Drummer candidates' reception; The Brig, 9pm; buffet.

Friday, 6/24: Mr. Drummer National Finals. Troc, 9pm-1am; \$15 advance.

Saturday, 6/25: Winner's Circle. Meet Mr. Drummer '83. Oasis, 3pm.

Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco. H.L. Perry; entertainment; 3-7pm, SF Eagle patio.

Night of the Beast. SOMA, 301 8th St (at Folsom); entertainment, refreshments; from 10pm; \$12 per person.

Sunday, 6/26: Gay Freedom Day Parade. 11am, Market Street; Rally, Civic Center, Noon.

Harvey Milk Film and Beer Bust. SF Eagle, 3-6pm, \$6.

SICKENING

by Steve Perkins

Open Letter to the American Civil Liberties Union, Gay Rights Advocates and the AIDS/KS Foundation

Dear Friends,

I am writing to request that your organizations seek a court injunction against the continued sale of the prescription drug Metronidazol (Flagyl). The continued prescription of this dangerous drug to gay people is an infringement on our civil rights.

Flagyl was approved during the 1950's for use in treating the vaginal yeast problems of women. In the early 1970's Flagyl was found to be carcinogenic (caused cancer) in mice and rats. In 1974 the Food and Drug Administration reviewed the status of Flagyl in view of the cancer causing evidence against it. Since Flagyl had been in use for some time without any apparent problems the FDA approved the continued sale of the drug, noting that the benefits at that time seemed to outweigh the risks.

Then in the late 1970's Flagyl was found to be an effective treatment for amebas and other parasites. And since 1977 the drug has been prescribed widely for the parasite problems of gay people.

And even though Flagyl has specific WARNINGS for patients who have history of liver disease the drug was prescribed in doses of from ten to twenty times higher than recommended in the treatment of Gay people, 90% of whom have had serious liver disease, hepatitis.

Because of gay people's liver problems, so say the specific warnings on the drug, Flagyl does not metabolize properly and instead of passing out of their bodies the drug forms a chemical bond with the blood plasma.

Current speculation, in press reports indicate that some agent in the plasma of AIDS victims is causing the spread of the disease. Could the agent be Flagyl, or since Flagyl is also mutagenic, some new virus caused by Flagyl.

Sketchy reports as to common aspects of the medical histories of AIDS patients indicates that most have had amebas and have been treated with Flagyl. Gay press reports are currently even linking parasites with AIDS.

Since studies of the medical histories of AIDS patients must await funding and since whatever funds made available are first to be used to support AIDS victims financially, medical history research and review could be a long way off.

I ask, in view of the evidence, if your organizations should not consider legal action against this possible cause of AIDS.

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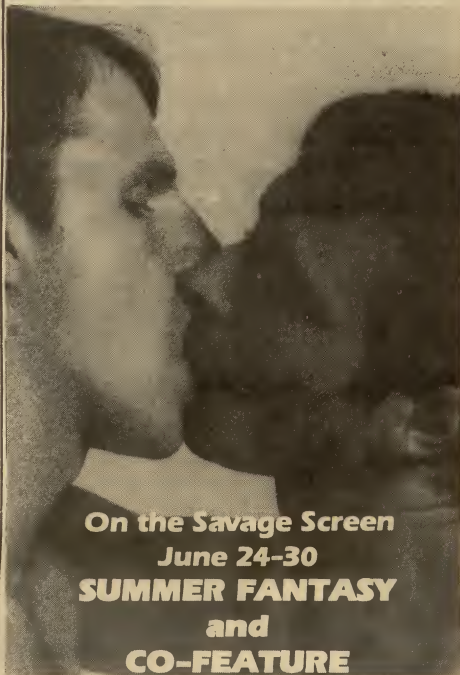
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FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Superman III

The Flying None

What's this fetish with death and destruction that Hollywood suddenly has picked up with a vengeance? First came Return of the Jedi with its start-to-finish Dolby Stereo explosions and killing and now Superman III blitzes us with its bombastic insistence that destruction of life and property are entertaining.

To add insult to injury, Superman III is stupidly relying on blind man jokes for laughs; and it is hopelessly cheap looking. When Superman flies even the least sophisticated eye can see the phony read projected backgrounds. The special effects for the scenes of calamity — scenes that theoretically carry movies



Sup's On. SUPERMAN III doesn't rate high.

like this — are shoddy as well. The only reason this third sequel was made was Richard Pryor. The number one box office attraction wanted to be in one. He does his schtick (which we've all seen before), but placed in a preposterous (even for Superman) plot filled with ill performances and a lackluster script, even Pryor is grounded.

Christopher Reeve, looking like a super man, does get his moment to show us how versatile he is — he is equally as bad with drama as he is with light comedy.

At well over two hours, Superman III began to feel like a TV mini-series halfway through, which I suppose says it all. (Coliseum) M. Lasky

Angelo, My Love

Gypsy in the Raw

Robert Duvall had an interesting idea about building a film around a 7-year-old gypsy, Angelo Evans; but Duvall's execution is not equal to his concept.

The boy certainly has a magnetic personality, and his family and other nonprofessionals who were cast from within the gypsy community create interesting and authentic screen presences; but Duvall seems to have been uncertain whether he was making a documentary or a dramatic film.

The result is a rambling set of improvisations based on incidents the writer-director observed in studying Angelo and his subculture. There's even a transvestite gypsy, one Duvall

says in known and accepted in his tribe as "Baby Nick" or "Sissy Nick." Vignettes which would have been useful in the beginning are shown as outtakes behind the closing credits.

The main plot, about Angelo's attempts to recover a ring stolen by a Russian gypsy, is forgotten for long stretches as other aspects of the boy's life are tentatively explored. Another running thread involves Angelo's romance with a "gaijo" — American girl; but there's nothing to prepare us for the long planned wedding (at age 14) of his brother Michael.

Many sequences are individually interesting, others totally undisciplined as if the director had thrown up his hands and said "Get what you can." The final assemblage is so lacking in structure that you might re-edit it in your head as you watch and come away with a better film. The raw material is there — especially Angelo. (Vogue) S. Warren

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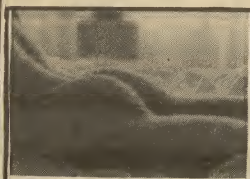
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Hot Norwegian Man
hung with a "big"
throbbing cock between
two firm, tanned, lustful
thighs, silky tan skin,
hairy chest, handsome,
blonde, bedroom eyes,
mustache, 6', 180
I am just a young
MACHO MAN JR.
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54c, 20a, 32w, 8"endw, bld, blu,
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Italian rough looks. \$50. Tony
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\$50 - hot top, uncut, hung big, rear
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Hot, handsome, muscles, hung.
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\$20 - Hot athlete. Hung nice.
• Bill' 441-1054. Massage, etc.
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Handsome Young Stud, 24
Beautiful Cock/Great Body
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my ad that read, in *The
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wegian," went to print.
Since then an awful lot
of you people out there
have known me as Joe,
Grant, Nick, Oluf, Clint,
Kyle, David, and "Ex-
Marine with a huge
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"Navy Stud," etc. I am
leaving S.F. this fall. Like
to hear from you out
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Man to Man/100% healthy hung All
American boy can handle your fantasy.
Slim athletic build/hung jock with
best ten around. Versatile with respect
to your every need. Offering hot oil
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looks/top or bottom/both. 23, 5'9",
140, blonde, GR. Kyle, 861-6581.

NOW SWALLOW THIS

Young ex-Marine with a huge
cock and tanned, built thighs,
blonde, blue, handsome, will
massage you well
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THICK HARD 9" BONE
Rugged 5'10" 160lb. tanned topman.
Clean shaven, dark haired, 9" crowbar
looking for **HOT BUNS** 24 HRS.
\$50in/60out. No time clock. Serious
inquiries only. Leave name & no. for
immed. callback. 24-hour service. Tom.
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Relax with a sensual massage by a
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guy. Outcalls only. \$30. Bill
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TANNED YOUNG HUNK

6', 155#, 24 yo., Italian, 28" waist,
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tile masseur; skilled, healthy, and
fun.

TOBY 828-2630 24HRS
E25

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14 Years After Stonewall
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Slow, sensual massage
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Exclusively for those wanting a man
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S & M

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Day and Night

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23, 160#, 35/hr
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E31

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Handsome, masc, 30, 6'4", 190#
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MICHIGAN FACTORY WORKER
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Clean shaven, dark haired, 9" crowbar
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\$50in/60out. No time clock. Serious
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MEN ONLY PLEASE
 10 P.M. UNTIL 4 A.M.
 GENERAL ADMISSION: \$1
 DISC JOCKEY: PETER CAIL

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"ROCK IT - A NEW NITE"
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PERFORMANCE ARTS FESTIVAL
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MR. DRUMMER
U.S.A. FINALS
 9 P.M. UNTIL DAWN
 GENERAL ADMISSION: \$15
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FULL MOON IN TROC
 11 P.M. UNTIL 7 A.M.
 (MEMBERS FREE BEFORE MIDNITE)
 MEMBERS ADMISSION: \$5
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SIXTH ANNUAL POST
PARADE TEA DANCE
 A SAN FRANCISCO TRADITION
 5 P.M. UNTIL DAWN
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 DISC JOCKEY: MIKE LEWIS
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